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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:
YANG GEN

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artists
at work
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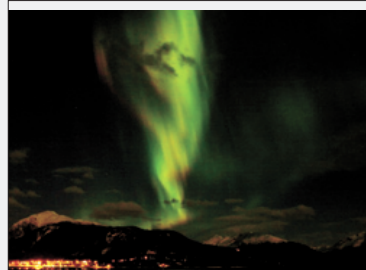


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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Touring more than the average bear

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Northern Lights for polar nights

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The world's workers

Pierre Bessard spent two months behind the lens in joint ventures to capture the heart of China's economic engine. His photo album, "Behind China's Growth," offers an intimate look into the lives of those who make the country's modern prosperity possible.

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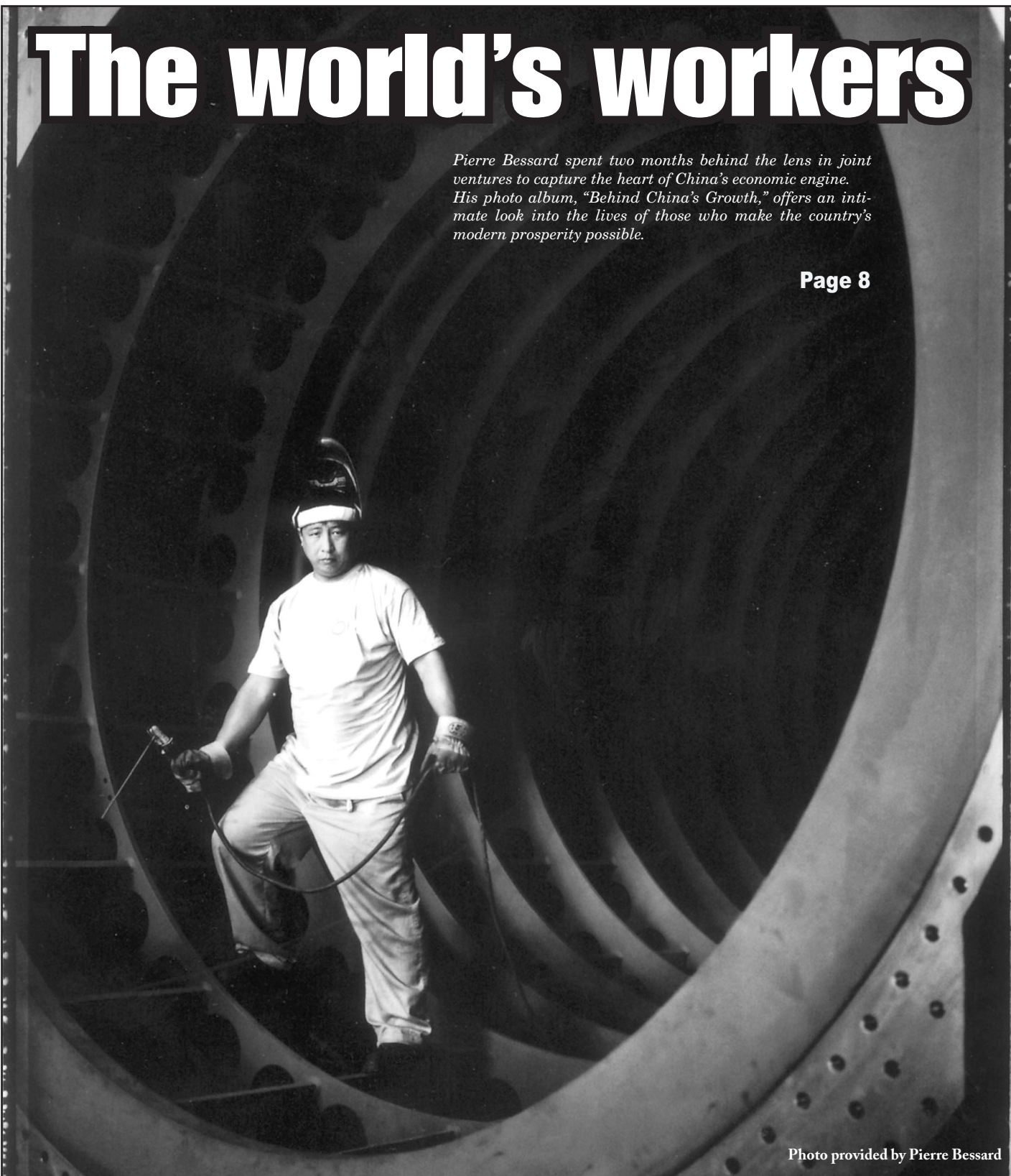


Photo provided by Pierre Bessard

好运北京
GOOD LUCK

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Nation's new method encourages voluntary drug recalls

China's drug safety watchdog has issued a new drug recall method, which encourages pharmaceutical manufacturers to recall unsafe drugs voluntarily.

The regulation, promulgated Monday by the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA), says that enterprises, which voluntarily recall unsafe drugs, will be subject to lower, or even be exempted from, administrative punishment.

Those who are aware of problems with their drugs but fail to issue voluntary recalls, will face

heavy fines or even be deprived of drug manufacturing licenses, according to the regulation.

"Fines will be three times the value of the recalled drugs," Yan Jiangying, spokeswoman of the SFDA, told a press conference Wednesday.

China has witnessed a series of drug safety scandals over the past years. The move by the SFDA comes in the wake of pressure on the Chinese government to overhaul the country's food and drug safety system.

Yan said most drug recalls in the past in China were compulsory recalls issued by the government.

"The new recall methods emphasize the primary responsibility of pharmaceutical manufacturers in drug safety," Yan said.

According to the regulation, manufacturers must set up and improve their quality monitoring systems, promptly analyze information and feedback from hospitals, retailers and users, and investigate and evaluate potentially unsafe drugs.

It classifies the problem drugs that must be recalled into three categories, with the first being potentially fatal and harmful drugs, which must be recalled within 24 hours of the recall announcement.

The second category is drugs that may cause temporary or reversible health problems and producers have two days to recall these.

The third category involves drugs that must be recalled within three days for reasons

other than safety, such as improper packaging.

Yan said the new regulation also applies to overseas pharmaceutical enterprises, which export drugs to China. "Their legal obligations are the same as domestic drug makers," Yan said.

To improve risk control on imported drugs, Yan said the regulation also requires overseas manufacturers to report promptly to the SFDA when they decide to recall products outside China.

(Xinhua)

Mobile family doctors to provide community care

By Jiang Xubo

Long waits in hospital queues may become a thing of the past if a new pilot program launched by the municipal government pans out.

Starting next year, residents of the capitals urban areas can call family doctors for a home visit instead of going through the hospital admission process for minor ailments.

The community-based medical services will extend to every family, including transient populations who have lived in the capital for at least six months, Liang Wanjian, vice director of the Municipal Bureau of Health, announced Wednesday during an executive meeting of the municipal government, the *Beijing News* reported.

The community medical teams, which include 20,000 doctors, nurses and health care professionals, will offer round the clock services for their communities, in addition to a hotline for 24-hour health care counseling.

"On average, every team will have as many as 800 to 1,000 households under its care," Liang said, "Every household will have its own family doctor, ready to make house calls via electric bicycle. It will be prompt and convenient."

Community doctors are required to hand out name cards with their phone numbers throughout the community they serve.

Community medical teams will also file health archives for all residents and set up an Internet data pool within the next year to ensure comprehensive and stable health care.

All capital hospitals rated as second and third level – the best in the system – will be required to work with medical teams in nearby communities for better service.

The project will also recruit more former specialists as family physicians, in addition to medical graduates.

The health bureaus have a plan in place to post signs to direct residents to community medical centers.

"We have also prepared calendars with maps for families which detail the medical centers' locations and phone numbers," Liang said.



Nanjing held a public ceremony to mourn its victims of Japanese aggression yesterday. CFP Photo

Massacre victims mourned

Chinese people gathered Thursday in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, to mourn victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese aggressors 70 years ago and wish for eternal world peace.

Bells tolled and Nanjing was in grief as nearly 10,000 gathered in the city at 10 am yesterday to mourn the 300,000 lives lost to Japanese invaders.

The rally was held in a square in front of the memo-

rial hall for the Chinese victims massacred by Japanese invaders, with the crowd mourning the dead and presenting wreaths.

The mourners, including survivors of the massacre and international friends, Nanjing school children and college students, passed a Nanjing peace declaration that calls on "all peace-loving people to be united in building a peaceful,

harmonious and reconciliatory new world."

Japanese aggressors occupied Nanjing, then capital of China, on December 13, 1937, and launched a six-week massacre. More than 300,000 Chinese people, including disarmed soldiers, civilians, women and children were brutally slain, according to historical documents.

(Xinhua)

Brief news

Officials punished for illegal acts

The nation has investigated and punished 6,200 malfeasant officials in the past five years for engaging in illegal activities, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the country's law enforcement watchdog, announced this week.

Unsanitary eateries shut down

The country has shut down as many as 41,200 unlicensed restaurants and revoked 2,000 hygiene licenses since September in an effort to bolster food safety, a spokesman for the Ministry of Health said this week.

CPI, food prices rise

The country's consumer price index (CPI) jumped 7 percent last month over November 2006 due to rising food costs, the National Bureau of Statistics announced Tuesday.

7,800 forest fires

Reports of 7,800 forest fires were filed from January to November with 55 fatalities, a spokesman for the State Forestry Administration said on Wednesday.

Preparing for drought relief

The government will allocate 70 million yuan to finance drought relief programs in the Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong, Guangxi and Guizhou provinces and regions, the Ministry of Finance announced on Monday in a prepared statement.

(By Jiang Xubo/Li Fenghua)

Urban residents banned from buying rural houses

By Jiang Xubo

Urban residents are still banned from purchasing residential land or housing from farmers, the central government stressed Tuesday, in a bid to exercise stricter control on land use, Xinhua reported.

The State Council demanded stricter management of rural land use at an executive meeting, Tuesday, to improve village-town planning and tighten control over rural housing construction.

Farmers' houses are required to be built on land deemed primarily idle or approved for hous-

ing. The policy that each rural household is allowed to have only one patch of housing land will be rigidly enforced.

Urban residents are forbidden to buy rural housing land or houses. Work units and individuals are prohibited from renting or occupying rural land for real estate development.

The decision is expected to put the brakes on rural housing and land sales to urban dwellers, a problem increasing with rapid urbanization.

Songzhuang, Tongzhou district, is a local example where vil-

lagers used land possession rules to renege on rural housing sales last September.

"I will file a lawsuit for reasonable compensation and leave the village if the authorities stick to this decision," Wang Lize, a painter, told *Beijing News*. Believing it was legal to buy and sell rural houses as private property, Wang paid 660,000 yuan for 12 farmhouses in the village in 2003.

While farmers are entitled to possess and use their housing land, ownership lies with the nation, according to the national property law which entered effect

in October.

Since last year, local villagers filed as many as a dozen lawsuits against some artists to reclaim their land. No artist has won a case.

During the past decade, as many as 1,000 artists have gathered in the village. Some 200 of them bought rural houses and settled there, and the village was confirmed as one of the capital's creative industry bases.

The area of arable land shrank to 122 million hectares at the end of last year, slightly above the government's warning limit of 120 million hectares, Xinhua reported.

School suggests surgery for its grads

By Han Manman

It is hardly news that many new graduates go under the knife seeking to get an edge in the country's exceedingly-tight job market, but a vocational school in Wuhan raised eyebrows when it led 30 female students to a plastic surgery clinic.

Eager to have artificially-created eyelid folds, thinner noses and jaw shaving, the 17 to 18-year-old girls clamored around doctors in Wuhan Zhonghan Hos-

pital last Wednesday. Most surgeries requested, the hospital said, were not extreme.

The students, described by their teacher as tall and good looking, were from the aviation service class in Wuhan Changjiang Vocational School. They will graduate next year and seek work as stewardesses in Chinese airlines.

The school organized the consultation session to give its graduates one of the most valuable tools

in Asia's job market: beauty.

"The more beautiful a girl is, the easier it will be for her to get a good job — especially when she is applying to become a stewardess," one student, who refused to give her name, said.

"We don't think there is anything wrong with students undertaking small surgeries to become more beautiful," Nie Fudong, assistant president of the school, said. The school only took the students

to the hospital for medical advice, he said. "They must have their parents' permission before having any surgeries," he said.

Officials from the Hubei Provincial Department of Education said Monday that if students seek plastic surgery, it should be a personal choice. It was not suitable for the school to organize the trip, and if any problems happen in surgery, the school may be held responsible, officials said.

"Most people who pursue cosmetic surgery are new graduates," Cui Qing, an executive with the Beijing cosmetic clinic CAMS, said.

Chinese graduates face an extremely tight job market, and some think the edge of the knife is the key to an edge in the market, he said. "It is not possible to completely alter one's face. Surgery can only provide touch-ups to what you already have," he said.

Trapped miners ate newspapers, leather belt

By Jiang Xubo

Eleven miners trapped underground in Hebei Province survived their 129-day ordeal with MacGyver-rigged meals made from newspaper, a leather belt and a bit of orange peel, the *Beijing News* reported.

The workers staggered out of an unlicensed iron and gold mine in Xinglong County, Chengde, Sunday over five days after the collapse of the mineshaft roof.

The men are recovering in local hospitals.

Wu Pengyong, 33, one of the miners, said a gust of wind rushed past his head while working. Rumbling immediately began overhead, and the tunnels lost power.

The 11 miners gathered after the collapse. They attempted to dig out an exit, but abandoned the plan as the escape hole collapsed every time.

"We had only one small can of water. We had to share it in turns. We could only have several sips per day," Fan Jinyou, another miner, said.

Rescuers drilled holes to pump in a supply of glucose and milk, but the milk was sent down the wrong tunnel and food never came. The starving miners turned first to newspapers and book pages scattered about the mine.

"We tore up the newspaper and pages into strips. The first bite nauseated me. I could hardly stand it. I had to crumple the paper into small balls so I could wash it down with water," Fan said.

The miners eventually turned to gnawing on their leather belts.

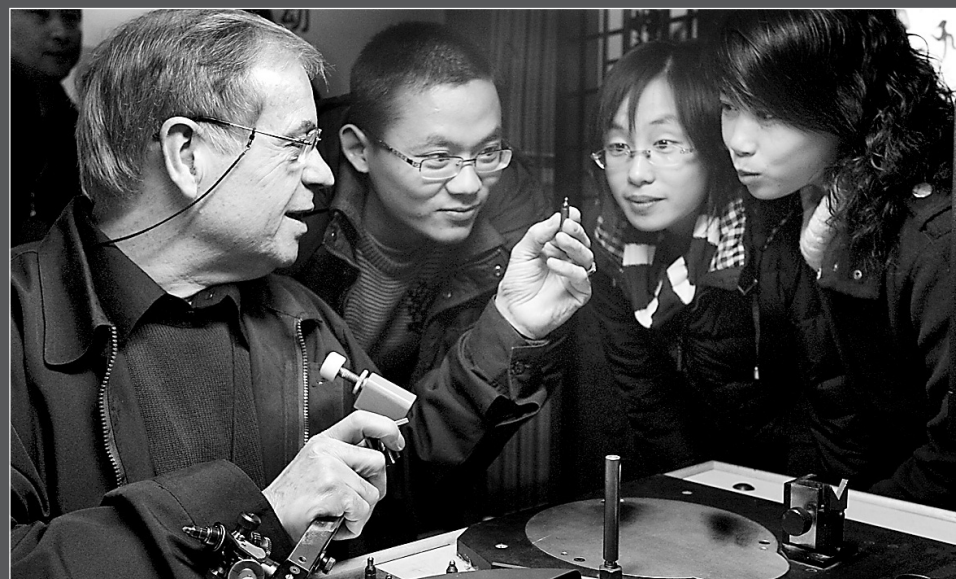
"We were really hungry," Wu Pengyong said, "We made a fire pit in an old rubber pipe and tried to cook my belt in an empty porridge can. I boiled it, but it wouldn't cook, so we just split it up and ate it half-cooked."

The only recognizable "food" in the miners' possession was an orange peel.

The miners said they never gave up hope. They could hear the sound of drilling as rescuers tried to reach them, and they banged repeatedly on the wall to alert the world they were still alive.

Local police detained the owner of the mine, who attempted to hide the accident to skirt fines and a possible shutdown. The attempted cover-up delayed rescue teams from starting until last Wednesday, two days after the accident happened.

Master diamond cutter teaches trade



Louis (left), a master of cutting diamonds from Belgium, held a workshop on Wednesday in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, to demonstrate his skill and gave basic instruction on diamond cutting.

CFP Photo

Chinese buy three UAE islands

By Huang Daohen

Two Chinese businessmen from Wenzhou, a coastal city in Zhejiang Province, have formally made an offer to buy three man-made islands in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for 5 billion yuan.

The businessmen, Zhang Jinyun and Zhou Jianzhi, signed an agreement last Saturday with local UAE government for the deal.

However, Zhang, chairman of the Canadian Wenzhou Businessman's Chamber of Commerce, denied the purchase was as stated in recent media reports. "We have only signed an agreement of intent to purchase land," Zhang told the *Beijing Youth Daily* on Tuesday.

"The islands will be man-made and built by reclaiming land from the sea," Zhang said, "To be more specific, what we have now is the island's blueprint."

He said reclamation work will start next August and finish by 2011.

He attributed his choice to buy land overseas to soaring domestic real estate prices. "Only by going out can we survive."

Besides, Zhang noted that countries in the Middle East have a high degree of trade liberalization. There is no income tax, and the trade tariff is relatively lower, he said.

The signed agreement said both projects will be located in Ras al-Khaimah in the northern UAE. The

land, a total area of 800,000 square meters, will be used for developing real estate projects.

Dana Island, 62 percent of the project area, consists of five islets. Zhang purchased three of them. He plans to build villas and apartments on the island.

The other project is a piece of land bought by Wenzhou housing developer Zhou Jianzhi. Zhou purchased the land's permanent ownership right, hoping to build vacation houses.

The land purchase was the domestic housing developers' latest effort to take a share in the local property market in UAE, a previous report said.

Bluetooth friendship booms on subway line

By Gan Tian

Bluetooth technology has boomed in Beijing's subways following the launch of Line 5. Such youth networking previously inspired the mobile story *I Fell in Love by Using Bluetooth in the Subway*, which became popular with CBD workers in September.

Mobile users with access to technology can send messages, pictures and videos to Bluetooth-equipped cell phone users within 10 meters for free, even if they do not know the receivers' phone number.

Zhu Luochuan, 24, an IT programmer who works in the CBD

area, lives in Wudaokou. He takes the subway to the office every day.

Yesterday, after testing out his Bluetooth technology on the train, he found five other Bluetooth users on his train. He sent a text message to a lady in front of him, but his greeting got no response.

Monday afternoon at Wangfujing Station, Judy Lim, 25, woman sales representative, was luckier. She sent a message asking, "Are you the girl who got on at Guomao Station?" After realizing the man in front of her sent the message, the two started talking and became friends.

"Sending messages over Blue-

tooth on the subway is a way to kill time. It works like magic, connecting strangers," Song Wuyi, a fiction writer, said.

Xue Zhenhua, a psychologist from Beijing University's Health Science Center, suggested that the subway carriage, as a closed environment, may stimulate people to express their thoughts and act braver.

The technology, however, also has the downside of exposing women to unwanted, sexually harassing messages. Legal experts suggest that recipients of such messages should save them as evidence if the messages become a problem.

Tourists ensnared in Shanghai coffee swindle

By Annie Wei

A Swedish businessman was cheated in Shanghai's most prosperous area during his November inspection tour, a Shanghai newspaper reported.

Peter De Verdier, manager of OMX, a Swedish financial service company, was allegedly approached by two college-aged girls who asked to talk to him on an evening stroll down Nanjing Dong Lu. The girls asked whether he would like to help them improve their spoken English ability during his sight-seeing, he said.

Shortly after the chat, one of the girls said she felt cold and asked him to go to the Manabe coffee shop on the third floor of the Bailian Shimao International Mall, where they ordered three cups of coffee, he said.

Verdier said the coffee was listed at 40 yuan per cup in the menu, but after being served, one of the girls ordered whiskey after Verdier told her not to.

After the whiskey arrived, Verdier received a call and left the table. He was on the phone for 10 minutes while the girls continued to order and drink whiskey.

When Verdier asked to pay and leave, the waiter served him with a bill for 4,966 yuan. The waiter said each glass of whiskey cost 400 yuan, and these girls drank 12 glasses.

The girls said they were students and could not pay, and Verdier found the exit blockaded by what he described as "serious-looking" men.

He wanted to call the police, but didn't know the number since it was his first visit to Shanghai, he said. In the end, he had no choice but to pay the bill.

The newspaper sent its reporter to investigate the coffee shop and found two German tourists ensnared in the same swindle, it reported.

The Germans said they met two college-aged girls on Nanjing Dong Lu, were taken to the coffee shop, and tricked into paying 2,600 yuan for two cups of coffee.

Shanghai authorities have started an investigation, and Manabe's headquarters said it would fine the branch for its fraudulent acts.

Xia Junyi, manager of Manabe franchising, said it received a similar complaint from a Japanese tourist before Verdier's story made the press. Manabe's legal department is taking action, he said.

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How Does It Work?

Pixel skin resurfacing is based on the principal of micro thermal treatment zones. The laser pulses create tiny ablative zones, removing the epidermis and upper dermis. The treatment then triggers the body's natural healing process, stimulating the growth of new, healthy skin tissue.

The procedure treats the small zones of skin, leaving surrounding tissue untouched and intact. These large unaffected areas act as a reservoir for more effective and rapid tissue healing and collagen production. The bottom line: new, healthier, smoother tissue in place of skin imperfections.

What To Expect?

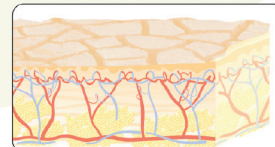
Your physician will determine the ideal treatment plan for your needs. Generally, treatment involves two to four sessions, at four-week intervals. Right after treatment you may feel a light tingling sensation. You may experience slight swelling for a day or two. As new skin replaces dead tissue, your skin will flake, a sign that healing is underway. Your skin will look better immediately, and will steadily improve over the next few months.

Does It Hurt?

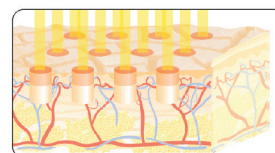
Far more comfortable than conventional laser skin resurfacing, Pixel skin resurfacing is experienced by most patients as a comfortable sensation.

Who Can Be Treated And On What Parts Of The Body?

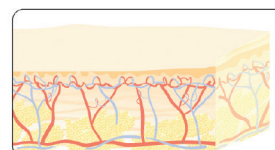
Pixel skin resurfacing can be used on patients of most skin types anywhere on the body. Since the procedure spares healthy tissue, it can be performed on delicate skin areas, such as the face, neck, chest and hands.



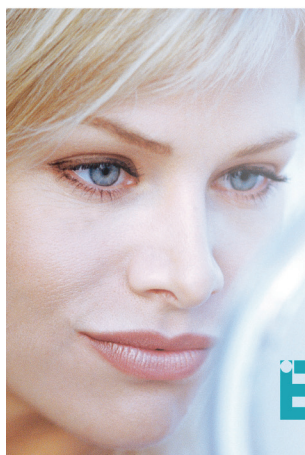
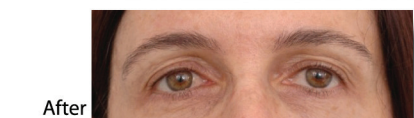
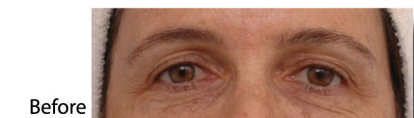
Before Treatment



During Pixel Skin Resurfacing



After Treatment



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Fake Chinese terracotta warriors shock German museum-goers

The German art world was shaken this week when the scandal broke that the Chinese terracotta soldiers on display at Hamburg's Museum of Anthropology are fakes.

The exhibition was closed at press time, and visitors to the exhibition have been offered refunds.

Passed off as authentic

"The Museum of Anthropology greatly regrets presenting false information and apologizes to the public," a museum spokesman said Wednesday. "The exhibition will close."

Titled "Macht im Tod," literally Power in Death, the exhibition opened in November and was scheduled to run until September 30 next year. A description on the website said there are as many as 70 authentic exhibits from excavations in China.

The museum posted notice on Tuesday warning visitors that the exhibits' authenticity was disputed.

Visitors who saw the show between November 25 and December 9 are entitled to reimbursement of ticket costs, the museum said.

Chinese experts are en route to the northern port city to examine the objects: eight clay warriors, two horses and 60 smaller artifacts. German art historians have launched their own investigation.

Discovering the swindle

The investigation was triggered by a visitor, Roland Freyer, when he lodged a complaint with the police over the Hamburg exhibition during his visit.

Freyer, an art dealer, was a founding member of the Centre of Chinese Art and Culture (CCAC) in the eastern German city of Leipzig, which co-organized the exhibition in Hamburg, but broke with it in a bitter row over showcasing fakes in Leipzig.

"The terracotta warriors in the Hamburg museum cannot be originals. Any exhibition of originals needs the approval of the cultural authorities in Shaanxi province where archaeologists uncovered the treasure," he said. "I was there in September and informed them (the authorities) about the exhibition. They knew nothing about it."

Shady shipments

A spokesman for the Leipzig exhibition company, CCAC which arranged the show, reluctantly admitted on German television that the figures were copies.



The fake terracotta warriors are being examined by experts.

IC Photo

"First of all, one has to say that the material – clay – was also used in those days. Then one can say that these figures are the same size as those in Xi'an. In any case, they are not originals," Yolna Grimm said. He said the figures were obtained from public authorities, institutes and businesses in China.

Wulf Kopke, director of the Museum of Ethnology, said he agreed to the exhibition on the firm understanding that the exhibits were genuine and the company assured him so.

"The CCAC presented us with

certificates of authenticity, but not documentation proving how they had been transported," he said.

The museum has not managed to free itself from suspicion of involvement, particularly as the figures were delivered after dark.

Chinese response

A Chinese investigation began after the scandal occurred, an official with the State Administration of Cultural Heritage said Wednesday.

"We're investigating the matter. Relics that go on exhibitions abroad must be approved by the State

Administration of Cultural Heritage," a spokeswoman at the administration, who declined to give her name, said.

A senior official at the cultural relics bureau in Shaanxi Province, home of the original 2,200-year-old life-size clay soldiers, said he had no knowledge of any official approval for the exhibition.

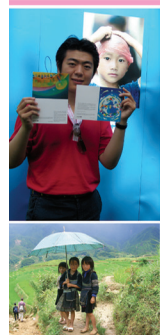
"I have not heard of any approval for this exhibition, nor have I endorsed such a thing myself," the official, who also declined to be named, said.

(Agencies)

Buy UNICEF Greeting Cards/Gifts and Help Children in China

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Send a card Save a life

In true festive spirit, when you give beautiful UNICEF cards and gifts to family, friends and clients this season, your generosity reaches many more than just those on your list. Your purchase enables children in China to benefit from the life-saving and life-changing gifts of healthcare, better nutrition and basic education particularly for girls and protection of disadvantaged groups.

What is special about UNICEF cards?

The UNICEF greeting card program has a 58-year history that began when a seven-year-old girl in the former Czechoslovakia gave her drawing to UNICEF to say "thank you" for the help she received. Today, UNICEF cards are sold in many countries using designs donated by artists from all over the world.

Most people don't know that 10 percent of UNICEF's worldwide programs are funded by sales of its cards and gifts. And if you or your company sends UNICEF cards/gifts, the recipients may buy the cards next year. That's significant, because the more cards/gifts we sell, the more children we can help. UNICEF cards are printed on recycled paper, and they're great for a variety of occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Thinking of You, Season's Greetings, and general use. You can also give them as gifts to your family and friends. Proceeds from cards sold in China are used exclusively for projects in China.

Cards are usually sold in packs of 10 costing RMB 75-85 (about US \$10). The money goes a long way: Just RMB 1 provides a year's supply of Vitamin A supplements for a Chinese child, boosting her immune system and reducing his chances of childhood mortality.

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Also, welcome to our stand sale and appreciate the support from the following hotels and department stores (Please contact us for the updated schedule):

Holiday Inn Lido Beijing	Nov. 5, 2007 - Nov. 18, 2007
Kerry Mall	Nov. 15, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007
PYJ Center	Nov. 19, 2007 - Nov. 23, 2007
Pacific Century Place, Beijing	Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007
China World Shopping Mall	Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007



Among primary schools in rural China, less than one in three schools has sports classes. 66% of these rural students have less than one hour of physical activity per day. This is because these schools lack sports equipment, sports facilities and teachers who can conduct sports classes. To reduce the gap between the rural and urban areas, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and local education authorities, promotes the "Sports-in-a-Box" project in schools in remote areas of western China. Please refer to Page 11 to learn the details of "Sports-in-a-Box". Offer your love to purchase "Sports-in-a-Box". UNICEF will send it to the schools in the western poor regions of China on behalf of you. Please write down the details of your contact information, we will send you the feedback regarding the delivery of the Box. Thank you!

Volunteers' phone numbers:

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0451-88698448	13903654170	13550070404
13061703717	13903650579	13982030802
13003235552	13796661898	13823556626
13482424149	13920585377	13550115095
13661412346	13911709735	13666074679
13818853316	13001346290	13588473747
13564347752	13389909043	13858112272
13003256940	13820985397	13952003232
13636305530	13388063699	13656008056
13817811724	13805329761	13060044767
13917654272	13957126882	13512500544
13818700409	13714290304	13390780995



UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador—Jackie Chan



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Foreigners allowed to invest more in brokerage JVs

(Reuters) – The government will soon publish rules on foreign investments in domestic brokerage ventures, but the 33 percent stake investment cap will likely remain in place for the near term, an official newspaper reported Thursday.

The Securities Regulatory Commission submitted a pro-

posal to the State Council to open its capital markets wider to foreign investors, including allowing them to underwrite local currency A-share listings and bonds, the China Securities Journal reported.

Foreign investors are allowed to claim no more than a 33 percent stake of a China brokerage

joint venture, according to current securities rules, but such an investment cap may be raised to a maximum of 49 percent in the future, the newspaper said, citing unidentified sources.

The central government announced in May that it planned to resume issuing licenses for securities ventures in the second

half of the year after a two-year overhaul of its once-troubled brokerage sector.

A group of senior US government officials, including Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, is visiting this week to push the government to grant foreign investors wider access to the country's rapidly expanding capital markets.

New York Stock Exchange opens office in capital

(AFP) – The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) formally opened a Beijing office on Tuesday in hopes of luring more of the country's rapidly growing companies to list on the world's largest bourse.

The move comes a week after NYSE rival Nasdaq opened its own representative office here, amid growing foreign interest in the market strength of Chinese firms.

NYSE officials said 36 mainland Chinese firms now list their shares on the exchange.

"With the opening of this office, I expect that number to grow," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who spoke at the opening ceremony, said.

NYSE CEO Duncan Niederauer said the office aims to lure more Chinese initial public offerings to the US.

Government authorities approved the opening of the NYSE on September 4, making it the first foreign exchange to receive such approval.

Volkswagen focuses on energy saving

By Han Manman

Nineteen school students were named "China green young journalists" Tuesday as their works to save energy were selected from thousands of entries in The Green Future Environmental Education Initiative (GFEEI) project, launched by Volkswagen Group China (VGC) and the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

GFEEI, the first large-scale, long-term public environmental awareness project for Volkswagen in China, is a three-year campaign to foster environmental protection awareness among school children.

FedEx speeds up domestic service network

By Huang Daohen

FedEx China announced Monday the establishment of a branch in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province. The new branch will meet the growing need for domestic and international delivery services in both Zhejiang Province and the Yangtze River Delta.

"The establishment of our state-of-the-art Huzhou branch will help meet the demand for fast, reliable domestic and international service by Huzhou's high-tech and modern manufacturing industry," Jimmy Chen, regional vice president of FedEx China's domestic service, said.

Domestic shipments will be channeled through the Hangzhou-based China Regional Hub, which will then sort and send them to 200 cities. International packages will be transported to the FedEx Shanghai Gateway at Pudong Airport.

Air China, Shanghai Airlines join Star Alliance



Air China, the nation's flagship air carrier, and Shanghai Airlines announced Wednesday their formal membership in Star Alliance, the world's largest airline code-sharing group.

Xinhua Photo

Controls to tighten on real estate industry

By Huang Daohen

The central government continues to flex its muscle in regulating the property market, a hot spot for speculation and public grievances, with a new crackdown on illegal practices in the real estate sector and normalization of the multi-mortgage label.

Tomson Riviera case

The controversial Tomson case ended Monday as trade in Tomson Riviera shares was suspended, the Shanghai Securities News reported.

The Shanghai Municipal Land Administration Bureau may force the developer, Tomson Group, to mark down the prices or lease all of its apartments, the report said.

The group may also face severe penalties for hoarding properties to artificially inflate prices.

Tomson Riviera apartments, which sell for a minimum US \$14,874 (110,000 yuan) per square meter, are the most expensive of their kind in the Chinese mainland.

According to fangdi.cn, an official property monitor, only three apartments have sold in the past two years at an average of 130,000 yuan per square meter.

The local land and housing watchdog launched a campaign in June to crack down on illegal practices, and property developers have been warned they may lose their licenses if found guilty of apartment hoarding.

The tough stance on the Tomson case may be an effort to ease concerns over skyrocketing housing prices driven partly by limited land supply, an industry watcher said, adding that it may also be a signal of the government's tight policy for the property industry.

Mortgage label clarified

The government clarified Tuesday its definitions of "second" and "multi-mortgage" as a follow-up to curb property prices.

The second, or multi-mortgage, is defined as a family unit, including spouses and children,

the People's Bank of China and the China Banking Regulatory Commission announced Tuesday.

This type of mortgage incurs higher interest charges and down payment requirements.

Families who used public housing funds and apply for lending from commercial banks on another property face tougher credit requirements, though they are still eligible for a loan on their first mortgage if the home's average area per person is below the regional average, spokesman for the central bank and banking regulator said.

The agencies made the ruling to clarify a three-month disparity in practice on second or multi-mortgages.

Industry experts said Tuesday's announcement may be a signal that the government will launch tighter control over property industry.

Lower property prices are likely in the future, industry watchers said.

Property investment soars

Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that investment in the property sector soared to 1.4 trillion yuan (US \$189.9 billion) in the first eight months, up 29 percent over last year.

Of the total, 1 trillion yuan went to commercial housing, an increase of 31 percent, while 45 billion yuan went to economically affordable housing, an increase of 29 percent.

By the end of August, China had 119 million square meters of vacant commercial buildings, down 2 percent from the same period last year.

In the first eight months, developments on 162 million square meters of land were completed, an increase of 15 percent, according to the NBS.

The real estate climate index rose to 105 points, up 0.48 points from last month and 1.17 points from a year ago.

A market is deemed to be "heating up" when the index exceeds 100.

Netizens protest US 'trapped' extradition

By Huang Daohen

Over 10,000 netizens launched an online real-name protest this week against a US extradition request of a Chinese businessman, who is reportedly trapped in custody in the UK.

The Chinese businessman Yuan Hongwei, accused of product counterfeiting, went to court Monday in London to request bail as he fights the US extradition request.

It was his second hearing, and due to new evidence presented by the US, the extradition hearing was postponed to next January.

The request for Yuan's extradition is based on an arrest warrant issued two years ago by the south-

ern US state of Louisiana. If Yuan loses his legal battle, he would be the first Chinese national suspected of an intellectual property offense to be extradited to America to face charges in a US court.

Yuan is the owner of the Chinese chemical firm, Hunan Magic Power Industrial Company, based in Liuyang City in Hunan Province. He was accused of violating US trademark laws by producing and selling various chemical products under the name of a US company.

The American firm, ABRO industries, says it has lost tens of millions of dollars from the sale of these counterfeit products around the world, VOA reported in October.

Hunan Magic Power, how-

ever, claimed it had a legitimate license to make products under the ABRO label.

British authorities arrested Yuan at London's Heathrow airport on September 14th. According to the Changsha Evening News, Yuan went to the UK at the invitation of his counterpart, the president of ABRO, to resolve the trademark dispute between the two companies.

Yuan was arrested by the British police on his arrival at the airport and has been kept in custody ever since.

The extradition case draws wide concern from many domestic lawyers and netizens. Many expressed their indignation and discontent

over the "trapped detention," saying it violates the human rights of a Chinese citizen.

Netizens launched a real-name protest on Rednet.com and called on the public to assist the trapped Chinese businessman.

As of press time, there are nearly 10,418 net-users registered with the protest, which will be sent to the British and American embassies in China, according to Rednet.com.

The Federation of Industry and Commerce in Hunan province also submitted a request to the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce this week, appealing for the central government's support.

Comment

Violation of the law

As the two companies' trademark lawsuit is still pending in the China courts, the US request has steered clear of the current legal system. The "trapping detention" has violated not only the international judicial process, but also the human rights of a Chinese citizen.

— Jiang Fan, lawyer

Extradition is significant

The extradition is significant and could very well have at least a dampening on counterfeiters.

Nowadays, it's true that you can manufacture products by your own technology, then export and distribute to countries everywhere. However, you face the risk that you won't be treated within your own system of law.

— Brad Huther

Not good for China

If Yuan loses this legal battle and is extradited by the US, it will have a very adverse effect on China. Chinese businessmen who have professional contacts with their US counterparts will feel insecure.

— Zhang Lei

Governmental effort needed

I support the netizens' protes. The central government should pay more attention to this case.

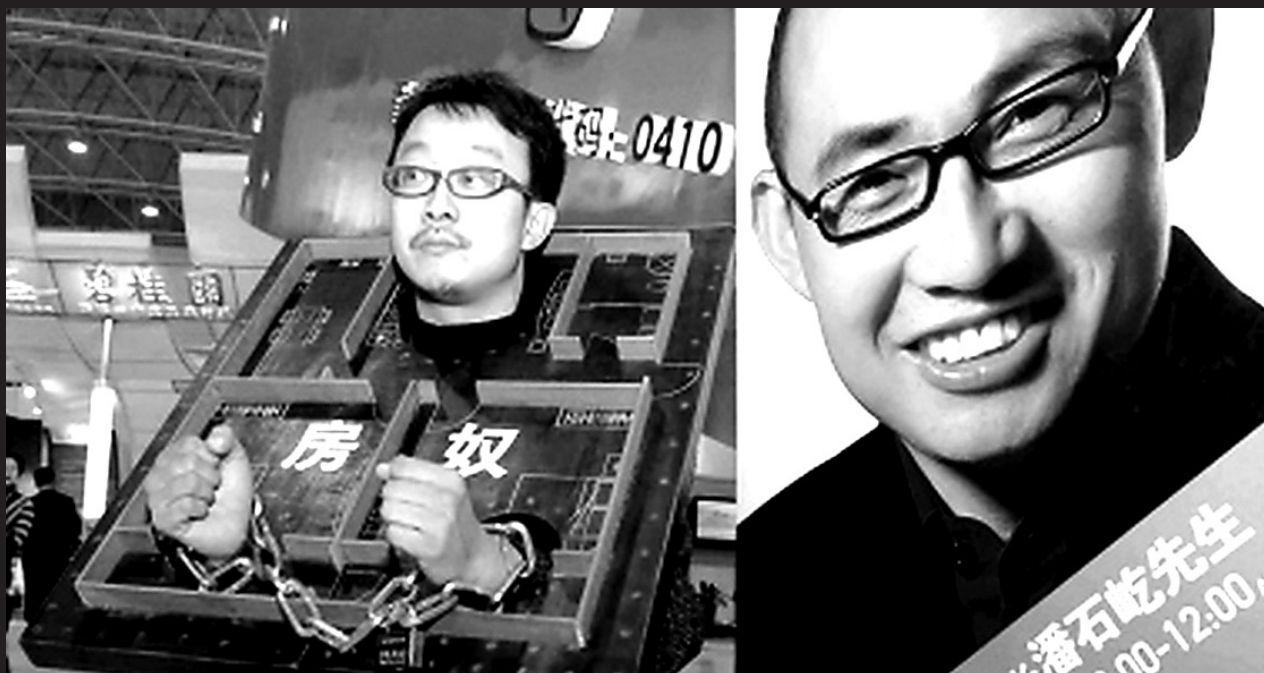
— Alex Dang, student

Beware of counterfeiters

I have no idea whether Yuan is guilty or not. But we do need to keep an eye on "economic terrorism." I'm a businessman and sometimes happen to meet counterfeiters. They don't follow the rules of the law.

— Jeff Bassford

Performance art attacks expensive houses



The 9th Housing Exchange Fair was opened in Beijing on Tuesday. Liang Kegang, an artist, put a large shackle around his neck, with two big Chinese characters read as Fang Nu or expensive housing slave, written on it, to complain about expensive housings harming people's living quality.

Photo provided by people.com.cn

Nuke power plant draws local ire

By Huang Daohen

A planned nuclear power plant in east China has stirred up a controversy with local residents claiming that the project will mar the beauty of the coastal area and pose a potential environmental threat.

As one of the three nuclear power plants slotted to be built along the coastline of Shandong Peninsula, the Rushan Nuclear Power Plant is scheduled to be completed by 2015.

The whole project has a total investment of more than 60 billion yuan, Xinhua reported.

Its planned location southeast of Shandong Peninsula in the Yellow Sea, however, is at the center of the controversy, because it is only a few kilometers away from the popular Yintan National resort.

The resort, dubbed the "Oriental Hawaii," is home to more than 100,000 permanent residents. The number triples in summer, when Beijing and Tianjin residents flock to their seaside holiday homes in

the region.

Local residents' concerns grew when they learned there are three nuclear power plants planned. "The 120-kilometer coastline is too short to have three such nuclear power plants," they said.

The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) responded immediately last Thursday. In a statement posted on its website, SEPA said the project must be examined before construction.

The national environmental watchdog confirmed that the Rushan nuclear power plant hadn't submitted an application for an environmental examination.

On the same day, the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), the major stakeholder in the project, announced that the project is still at a very early stage and CNNC is carrying out research into its environmental impact.

The company has not yet picked up the procedure to apply for the SEPA assessment, the CNNC said.

Comment

Plant not that horrible

If the authoritative evaluation report shows the locale is not appropriate, the project will be canceled. However, the nuclear power plant is not that horrible, and the residents must understand the project.

— Wang Yongxiao, official with the project

Ridiculous

It is ridiculous to build a nuclear power plant in such a densely populated area with such a beautiful seascape.

— Monica, local netizen

Look at the advantages

Indeed, nuclear power is not good for people's health and may also affect the sight-seeing area. However, we should see the advantages. Every coin has two sides. Otherwise, we might as well



The planning of a nuclear power plant is always controversial.

CFP Photo

return to ancient times.

— Della, student

Don't block plant

We are not holding back the project but waiting to assess its environmental impact.

— Wu Xiaoping, head of SEPA

Risks are considerable!

It is better to invest the money in power saving and water, wind and solar power plants.

Nuclear power will contrib-

ute only a small fraction to China's electricity output, but the risks are considerable.

— Clair, netizen

Encourage good design

It is possible for nuclear power and a visually appealing system to exist together. Encourage good functional design and beautiful facility design so it all works.

— John Woo



Ambroise Tezenas

A French eye captures Beijing's night hutongs

By Gan Tian

After five visits to Beijing, French landscape photographer Ambroise Tezenas, 35, finally held his photo exhibition "Beijing: Theatre of the People" in 798 District last Saturday.

Tezenas's photos of the city were all presented in the Paris Beijing Photo Gallery. His works mainly displayed the contrasts of this big city: some showed countryside views and some the high buildings in the CBD.

The French photographer came to Beijing in 2001 first. He made up his mind to shoot a series of photos about the city. "I didn't want to be a traveler," he said, "I wanted to be serious." Since then, he has visited the city yearly, staying for one or two months each time.

In 2001, Beijing was chosen the city to host the 2008 Olympics, and Tezenas read an arti-



Tezenas's photo of Beijing's old hutong.

Photos provided by Ambroise Tezenas

cle on what the city wanted to be, the money it would spend, and the changes it would make. "Many changes are going to take

place in Beijing," he said, "and I wanted to record them."

After shooting several times, the artist got the impression

that the city was changing so fast, just like a theatrical play – that was why he called his exhibition "Theatre of the People." "It is just like in the theater, this is scene one, followed by scene two, and the citizens are like the audience," the photographer explained.

The photographer loved shooting *hutongs* at night, as they were mysterious and calm. However, he was often nervous when returning home late at night. "Just imagine, you're traveling back home at 3 in the morning and you see a foreign guy wearing black carrying a big black camera, and I could not even use Chinese to explain myself," he joked, but he had his own way. He smiled at those he met and shared his cigarettes. To Tezenas, night hutongs always bring people closer.

Workers' lives seen through camera's lens

By He Jianwei

A French photojournalist spent two months in factories taking Polaroid photos of the workers in China and released his photo album Tuesday at the Timezone 8 bookstore.

Pierre Bessard from The Agency REA, a photo agency offering instant access to the largest databank of worldwide economic images on the Internet, took photos of the workers in two French-China joint ventures settled on the outskirts of Beijing and Tianjin in July and August, last year.

"China has become the world's factory and they are the world's workers," Bessard said, "They are the real muscle power behind the Chinese economy."

Bessard's photo album, "Behind China's Growth," is a series of intimate portraits of these often over-looked individuals. He talked with the workers before he took the pictures. "They are open and friendly. They always talked about their families, their workshops and their money problems," he said.

He met Liu Xianping, a coy woman whose grace allowed for a degree of femininity amidst the bleak, industrial settings, and Wang Wei, a 19-year old who still finds the time to stay up late playing videogames despite his three-hour commute to work.

At the factories, husbands, children and spouses are the subjects of every conversation. "Everyone obsesses over his only child and is struggling to build



Alstom's workers in China

the child a better life than his own," Bessard said.

"It's the first photo album concentrating on factory workers, not the migrant workers who build the buildings," Robert Bernel, the publisher from Timezone 8 said.

Bessard said in the US and some European countries, some people fear China's growth, and he wanted them to see what's behind China's rise. "The workers in the Chinese factories are as normal as any other country's," Bessard said.

In the huge workshops of Alstom Beizhong Power and Tianjin Alstom Hydro, all the employees of the French group are building turbines and generators.

Bessard chose 85 photos from over 2,000. He didn't use any sophisticated effects or artificial light. "I just wanted to capture how they behave in their daily lives and not in my camera," he said.



The workers in the factories are the real muscle power behind the Chinese economy.

Photos provided by Pierre Bessard

Pop artist with his 'Dolls and Molls'

By He Jianwei

A pop artist gave his first solo exhibition entitled "Dolls and Molls" at the Beijing Today Art Museum Wednesday.

Born in Iceland in 1932, Erro, alias Gudmundur Gudmundsson, is one of the greatest artists in Iceland. In 1989, the Reykjavik Museum dedicated several galleries to celebrate the artist who represents the country in public and private collections all around the world.

Private utopia

"I paint because painting is a private utopia for me. I can do everything I want to do," Erro said.

When Erro was 10, a tourist gave him a catalogue about the works from the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He was enthralled by the paintings in the catalogue and since then, painting has become the passion and mission in his life.

Erro started his career practicing collage in his very early works. Collage was a spontaneous technique he used as a way to express his inner self, putting images together, selecting them from thousands he collected at the beginning of his career and continues to collect on his world journeys.

Erro always chooses the titles of his paintings: sometimes bizarre, often implying a very personal sense of humor and a tendency to mock. In this exhibition, he used images of dolls in simple juxtapositions with photographs of movie sex symbols Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe or characters borrowed from comic strips.

Andy Warhol too repetitive

In 1962, Erro met Andy Warhol, an American pop artist, in New York. "When I saw Andy Warhol for the first time, I noticed that many artists copied his style," he said.

Erro believed his pop art was different from Warhol's. "My pop art looks more complicated and Warhol's is too simple. My works are Baroque Pop," he said.

The artist always changes his subjects and style in his works and doesn't like to repeat. "Andy repeated again and again," he said.

He thought artists should not repeat what they have done and must change their subjects or styles.

"If we are in the business of whiskey, we can not change. If you always change the taste of the whiskey, people will not buy it anymore," he said.

Political pop art

Erro used to listen to the radio news in the middle of the day and that was reflected in his paintings. Through his work, we can see the Viet Nam War and Iraq War.

He met Fidel Castro, the President of Cuba in 1967 and then sent him a painting named "The Bay of Pigs."

Erro criticizes the materialistic phenomena in commercialized society and he opposes over-consumption and fashion culture.

He rebuked the "American Coca Cola" culture and Hollywood culture which emerged during the process of globalization.

Streamlining socialization, a speedy solution

By Annie Wei

Long hours in the office don't always leave the capital's residents time to get out and meet people, but for locals looking to meet friends or lovers, speed dating might be the ticket.

Pilar Busto, 29, a Spanish teacher from an international school, and Allison Johnson, 29, an American legal assistant, are the organizers of Speedating Specialists and have made a name in the Beijing scene with their networking group on Facebook.

The last speed dating event, which was held in a Lidu-area mall in November, was a big success. Not only was the party atmosphere great, but the evening had one successful match-up.

Two participants, a woman visiting from the US and an American-born Chinese law student attending a local college, ended up spending a two-week holiday together.

"The man even called me for advice on what gifts to send her for Christmas," Johnson said. "He bought her a foldable mini-bike and sent it to Hawaii."

Busto said a successful speed dating event depends on many factors, but having great participants is paramount.

"Last time, we had 14 men and 14 women. Everyone arrived on time," Busto said. Everyone seemed to fit the occasion, got to know each other and chatted, and no one left early, he said.

After listening to too many friends complaining about not having dates, Busto was inspired to start the group. Johnson, her former colleague, was eager to help.

Although there are thousands of lonely men and women searching desperately for that special someone, Busto and Johnson made it clear that they are not after the desperate. "We don't pick people because we think they need help making friends. We look for people who are social and want to make new friends because it's the time and the town to do it in," the two wrote.

Organizing a speed dating session requires more than just



One of the speed dating events this summer

Photos provided by the Speedating Specialists



Allison Johnson (left) and Pilar Busto (right)

putting an ad online. Speedating Specialists said it prefers to meet all participants in person beforehand, to see if each applicants' personality can jibe with the other members'.

Since this April, the group has held six events. Each event was scheduled on Saturday night. Simple speed dating, with five or six-minute conversations between each person, takes two-and-a-half to three hours. A variant, which includes icebreaker games afterwards, lasts three-and-a-half to four hours.

"We try to make it like a night-out," Johnson said.

Extra hours spent locating

venues, making reservations and calling everyone in advance is the most difficult part of the job.

"People are very personal about speed dating - very sensitive," Johnson said. Ensuring an even number of male and female participants is the hardest.

Both Busto and Johnson are currently in relationships. As the organizers, they do not get involved in these events, but do admit it is a great way to make more friends.

"Busto is very social. She and her husband make new friends all the time," Johnson said, "I do not always have the energy to go out, so the event is a good way for me to meet new people."

Busto's tip for speed dating is to not have high expectations for the session.

"Speed dating is all about surprise. It is important for participants to have the right attitude and just enjoy it," Busto said.

Once, a Chinese girl called to join the event, they said. She called in many times with aggressive questions like, What kind of men will show up? Students or profession-

als? Chinese or western?

"Obviously, she only wanted to meet successful foreign men," Busto said. The organizers never intended for the event to work that way. Although they encourage participants to date and even to marry, they will not reveal personal details.

In each meet-up, each woman is given 6 minutes to meet each man. At the end, each participant gives feedback on who he or she would like to meet again. At the end of the party, each participant fills out a card with his or her opinions of the other speed daters. If both participants' intentions match, they will be given each other's email address.

The organizers suggest preparing interesting questions in advance to avoid boring questions like Where you are from? or What you do for a living?

"It keeps conversation fresh and you can get to know a person better if you ask them something like, 'If you could go anywhere in the world for vacation where would you go?'" Busto said.

Events

Seasons greeting from Agrilandia Italian Farm

On Christmas Eve, the Agrilandia Italian Farm will provide outstanding Italian food and a romantic concert, and a fireplace resort and brunch on Christmas Day for 1,999 yuan per couple. Meals include dinner on December 24, a snack after midnight and brunch on December 25.

Where: Agrilandia Italian Farm, Baige Zhuang, Mapo Zhen, Shunyi District

When: December 24 and 25

Tel: 13701107474

A Christmas special at Kids Club

In the Bookworm, storyteller Terri Adams will read many Dr Seuss books and screen the Christmas classic, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. Come along and join in the Christmas fun. Suitable for children ages 4 and up.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: December 16, 10 am

Tel: 6586 9507

Beijing Amblers: Silver Mountain and Pagoda Forest

The Silver Mountain looks extra silver with the recent heavy snowfall. The hilly forest area is made of black granite and is often topped with snow. There are seven well-preserved sculptures commemorating honorable Buddhist monks. Amongst them, five date back to the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) and two were built in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Evergreen trees make it a favorite scenic spot in the city.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: December 15, 9:30 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday - Friday, 9 am - 6 pm), 6432 1041 (evenings and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)

Fairytale Romance & Christmas Extravaganza 2007 @ Days Hotel & Suites Beijing

Romantic Silent Night

Spend a romantic night with Christmas Set Dinner and lucky draws. Taste Christmas drinks while entertained by live band music.

Where: A+A Club

When: December 24, 6:30 pm - 1 am next day

Set Ticket: 1,388 yuan net, for two persons with a one night's stay in a Superior Room.

Additional benefits per set ticket: 688 yuan net for third person; or 288 yuan net for a child between 3 and 12.

Fairytale Christmas Gala Night

Lavish buffet, entertainment shows, fun

games and lucky draws. Fabulous prizes feature Outbound Travel for two persons, Portable Computer, LCD TV and Cell Phone.

Where: Regal Palace Theatre Restaurant

When: 6:30 pm - midnight, December 24

Ticket: 1,288 yuan net for an adult; 688 yuan net for a child between 3 and 12.

Ginger Bread House

Where: Lobby

When: December 1 - 25

Tel: 6773 1234 ext 3930 or 8778 9888 ext 222



Alternative party highlights

By Annie Wei

Many people are thinking of throwing parties for friends on Christmas or New Year's Eve. Here are some special entertainment ideas to help highlight the parties.

Skin shadow puppet show

During the Nanluoguxiang Festival in September this year, the skin shadow puppet show turned the Salud bar into a most popular venue. With a long history and unique form, this folk art really attracts people from different backgrounds.

Historical records show that it dates back to the mid or late Tang Dynasty. During the Song Dynasty, the art form became one type of prosperous folk art, combined with the genre of popular entertainment mainly consisting of talking and singing. With a thousand years of development, the skin puppet show has transformed into various unique styles. For example, it is known as the "ox-skin shadow show" for children in Shaanxi and "sheep-skin shadow show" in Zhejiang and the "shadow show on window" in Shanxi.

Anyone who has an interest in hiring skin shadow puppet show performers can log onto plying.net, one of the most comprehensive online websites about Chinese skin-shadow puppetry. It has about 12 performing groups with various kinds of skin-puppet shows.

Cao Zheyi, the director of plying.net, said hiring a group of shadow puppeteers performers is quite popular now, especially during the holiday season.

Normally, it costs 1,500 yuan for a group of about five performers to do a two-hour show at your house or another venue.

The website also sells many



Guests to the Nanluoguxiang Festival watch skin-shadow puppet show at Salud bar. Photo by Annie Wei

delicately-made skin shadow puppets, great presents for friends and family back home as well.

They also provide training for disabled people to learn how to make shadow puppets and sell their products.

Traditional Chinese music instrument performers

Women in traditional Chinese clothing playing traditional musical instruments is always an impressive sight for visitors at a "Chinese-theme" party. It always seems classic and elegant.

Normally speaking, you do not hire one girl for a whole night's performance, Zoe Wong, a media coordinate for the organization, said.

"You need to hire at least two or three," Wong said, "One to

play Guzheng, one for Pipa and the other for Yueqin."

The price varies greatly depending on the performers' skills. For example, two or three average-level performers will cost 500-600 yuan for a night, which is about 200 yuan per person.

Wong said they do not contact the players in person. "These performers normally have their agents. We have a fixed agent who can arrange the right performers, music instrument and transportation for the players once the price is settled," Wong said.

If you do not want to give a cut to the agent, you can try to post some ads at music schools like the Central Conservatory of Music or China Conservatory of Music. But Wong said it is a little troublesome.

Pole dancing

Since a woman opened her first Roland pole dancing school in Beijing at the end of 2006, the pole dancing scene is not that mysterious any more. And the school also attracts many business women who believe it to be a great fitness exercise and they do not mind performing it at a bar occasionally to improve their skills. The fee charged for pole dancing is not cheap.

For foreign pole dancers, you can find them in the Russian restaurant in the Russian district, Sanlitun. It costs 1,200 yuan per person per night. Due to the fact that there are more and more Asian girls doing pole dancing now, you can find cheaper venues.

The Forbidden City opens to recruit foreign volunteers

By Li Fenghua

The Forbidden City is recruiting foreign volunteers for the consultation and guidance service as part of the preparation for the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Tang Songyuan, who is in charge of the recruiting project, says the museum plans to recruit about 20 foreigners as voluntary tour guides.

Candidates should be interested in the traditional Chinese culture and have regular hours to take up the voluntary task. They must also be in good health and have an independent working capacity.

"Basic communication skills in Chinese are required for native speakers of Japanese, Korean, German, French, Spanish and Arabic. If their mother tongue is English, then basic Chinese skill is not necessary," Tang said, since English has been a required as foreign language in Chinese education for many years now.

Before these volunteers are



Once inaccessible to the outside world, the Forbidden City is welcoming foreign volunteers. CFP Photo

ready to work, the staff of the Forbidden City will give them special training and enough guidance practice to get everything operating smoothly.

"The voluntary positions will be unpaid, but the Forbidden City is going to offer some other perks to encourage the recruits," Tang said.

The recruitment started on December 5 and will only finish

when they have enough volunteers. So far, 10 foreigners have applied for the posts and Tang is very optimistic about the recruiting process.

"We hope that more and more foreigners are becoming informed and involved in this activity," Tang said, "And after the Games, we will continue to use this kind of activity to better promote traditional Chi-

nese culture."

Candidates can mail a copy of their passport identification pages and CV, both in Chinese and English to: Public Education Office, Department of Education and Publicity, No. 4 Jingshan Qianjie, Beijing 100009, or email them to laetiita@sina.com

For more information, please call the museum at 8511 1398 during working hours.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyiing@ynet.com

I want to know where I can buy an iPhone in Beijing and how much it costs. Can Chinese SIM cards be used in an iPhone?

The iPhone has not officially entered the Chinese mainland market, but there are still ways to get one. Ask a friend in the US to buy one for you, buy it in Hong Kong or on the local black market. It will cost about 4,500 yuan. If you get an iPhone from the US and know how to unlock it, it's not difficult to use a local SIM card in it, otherwise, you need to pay another 500 yuan to an expert to modify it for local use. Ones you get from Hong Kong are normally unlocked already.

In other Chinese cities I have lived in, they had nice places that I could go any time of the day and pay 30 to 40 yuan for a sauna, a shower and relaxing sit in a sofa. Do you know any decent bathhouses in Beijing?

Decent bathhouses are often seen around third and fourth ring road. Pick a big bathhouse with uniformed staff members to avoid ending up in a "massage" ghetto.

Where can I find Kerastase products? I cannot find them in most department stores.

Kerastase products are sold at quality hair salons. You can find them in salons near the ice-skating rink in the World Trade Center, or at Eric Paris in Sanlitun; Image Momentum in Wanda Plaza Dawang Lu also carries Kerastase, as well as the hair-dressing place opposite the April Gourmet on Xingfuzhong Lu.

I want to adopt a Chinese baby and have been in Beijing for a week. I am not sure who to contact about information. Can you tell me who to write and where I can read any related regulations?

Most foreign couples adopt a Chinese baby through a local agent due to the complicity. Many find it difficult to finish the procedure without a professional's help. For Chinese regulations on foreign adoptions, you can contact the China Center of Adoption Affairs at 7 Baiguang Lu, Zhongmin Building, Xuanwu, 100053, which is under the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the PRC. You can also visit the center's website at china-ccaa.org/old/, which contains lots of information such as relevant documents, guidelines and contact e-mail and physical addresses. Most Chinese babies are adopted by people from North America. Check those countries' websites for information in English.

(By Wei Ying)

Laoshan Velodrome turns into the wheel thing



Cyclists push hard for the top prize.

Photo by Zuma Cui

By Gan Tian

The "GoodLuck Beijing" 07-08 UCI Track Cycling World Cup Classics dropped the curtain on the cycling testing events on Monday. It was a good ending to the whole "Good Luck Beijing" series events this year.

The event

There were 376 riders forming 69 teams from 44 countries and regions taking part in 17 individual events, including seven men's and three women's Olympic events. The Netherlands ranked first in the overall medal tally with four gold. France, Great Britain and Team DSB were second, third and fourth respectively.

China ranked only 20th in the event with two bronze medals in two non-Olympic events: the men's kilometer individual time trial and women's team sprint final.

The venue

The Laoshan Velodrome is located in the Eastern part of Beijing in Shijingshan District. It is situated between hills in the south, open landscape to the north, the existing cycling and fencing administration in the east and Fifth Ring Road in the west.

A 300-meter long "backbone" service building unites the existing cycling and fencing administration and the new Laoshan Velodrome, which "hovers" as a circular disc above the service building.

The "backbone" connects to Bajiao Park in the south with the newly introduced Olympic railway station in the north. Spectators can enter the hall directly on the spectator level via the garden roof of the "backbone".

The northern end of the "backbone" contains the Olympic railway station and a three-level parking garage for 5,000 bicycles.

The cycle track, 250 meters in circumference, is constructed of wood and will allow fast performance times for the athletes. A proportion of the track is sprint orientated allowing for exiting competitions. Long distance disciplines will have equally favorable conditions. The track will have a depressed infield giving all spectators and participants an optimal view.

Ticket price

The ticket price was settled at 20 yuan per day. Spectators could watch the whole day's events for only 20 yuan. According to the committee, there were nearly five to six finals on each day, which certainly satisfied all visitors.

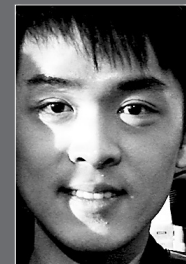
There were 1,200 tickets available for each event which sold out. The audiences could book the tickets from the official website (goodluckbeijing.com.cn), or call the hotline at 6417 0058 or simply buy them right at the ticket booth.

Comment



It is so good that the Laoshan Velodrome is located here in the west of Beijing, as visitors can escape the downtown and breathe the clean air - Beijing's best-quality air is in the west - and the track cycling sport event needs good air!

- Yang Chen, spectator



The ticket price? Oh, it is very fair. I live near here and when I heard the GoodLuck Beijing track cycling event was going to be held here, I booked five tickets for my family members. It was a good chance for us to get together and watch the game.

- Luo You, nearby resident



All I can say is, the volunteers were so great! They smiled at me whenever I met them! I felt really welcomed. When I saw them on the track, I knew that they were going to make things right!

- Jesse Lopez, British visitor

Photos by Gan Tian

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The 80s generation

The shopping center's long corridor is decorated with a row of openwork shelves housing young artists' productions. For many of them, it was hard to believe that one day their work would be on display at this luxury site, let alone be sold out.

"In the past, young original works always appeared on the street, but we don't want them to stop at 'street level.' We offer a hand by allowing them to share the same space with world top brands, which is a huge promotion for Chinese original art," said Hong Huang, CEO of China Interactive Media Group, publisher, radio and TV anchor, promoter of the exhibition, together with Luo Hao, Time Out's art director.

Two standards are followed in choosing the exhibits. "One is originality, the other is good quality," Hong said, adding that the show is conceived as a platform to encourage young Chinese artists to show their creativity, personal thoughts, and find inspiration in their daily lives.

In Hong's eyes, 1980s-born artists are independent, open-minded, humorous, interesting and free. Compared with those well-known brands and mass-produced products, their clothing, shoes and cartoons are cooler. "They can create and play at the same time," she said.

Wang Jianwei, a conceptual artist who was born in the 1950s, said the 1980s generation "is aggressive, insisting on making their own choices, more likely to deny existing concepts, which leaves them a wider space to be creative."

In Wang's opinion, most 1950s-born artists have long hair and view "creation" as a huge project; the ones born between 1960 and 1970 like to express "a feeling of mockery" - they mock society, mock reality and many other things. "These 1980s artists have business awareness from the very beginning - quite different from us, who are doing 'creation' at home," Wang said.

Creating a stylish design museum

"Combining art, design and shopping is a new consumption pattern and China's Seasons Place is the pioneer," Wang said. He used the example of the Prada Flagship Store in New York as a place not only for shopping but also for displaying artworks and sometimes using a small theater.

"We want to make people stumble into the art when they are out shopping," Deng Rushun, general manager of Seasons Place said.

The artworks are not only situated in public spaces but also inside every store. For example, the work of Chinese painter Zeng Hao is shown at Lane Crawford, together with the skirt by Italian designer Emilio Pucci and works of Alexander McQueen.

Shanghai-based artist Zhou Tiehai's work is displayed in the Louis Vuitton window. "Seasons Place will shape itself as a 'design museum.' We will cooperate with world famous design museums and display the most stylish designs inside and outside China," Deng said.

Four big names in China's art circles - Zhang Yonghe, Wang Jianwei, Hong Huang and Liu Zhizhi - will take charge of the shows in the mall afterwards.

Deng disclosed that Seasons Place will launch at least two large exhibitions together with European museums next year. Various China original design shows, which provide Chinese native designers the opportunity to expose their work, will also be held every month with different themes.

Seasons Place Shopping Center

Photos provided by Monica Han

Young art

By Han Manman

The new luxury shopping mall on Beijing Financial Street, wants to show more than just luxury flagships. The center adds like Manhattan, La Défense and Shinjuku, where people not only enjoy sharp, original art.

The opening show, a three-week exhibition titled, "China Young Artists' Works" with everything from toy designs and environmental art to independent music stations. Organizers say these young artists born in the 1980s. After this show, the shopping center will develop itself into a "Chinese original art platform."



Inter

WEAkid: C

Riding a bicycle is a mature and first original designer and the Peking opera team two years ago.

Perk: Inde

Perk is the Shanghai designer vary from a stickers to clothing.

Founding years ago at was at Shanghai packaging, design at Tian welcomed by

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the Seasons Place Shopping Center, adds a touch of culture to equal places only buy expensive novelties, but also

Young Designer Art Show," displays 15 mentally-friendly bags to handcrafted shoes artists represent the top level of Chinese will launch even more shows, in order to

shine

at new mall

esting youth works

Original toy

A new wave of toy design in China, WEAKid is an integrated brand. The WEAKid is the only platform toy created by Weak, a local architect. The toy has different styles from a panda face to a pirate. It took Toy Kingdom's stars to turn his design into reality.

pendent design duo

The combination of You Zao and Wowo, a design studio set up in 2004. Perk's products cheerfully twisted array of notebooks and clothing and toys.

g designers Wowo and Zao met online a few popular design forum poobbs.com. Wowo Shanghai University, studying product design and while Zao was up north, majoring in fashion design at Jin's Art Academy. Their small store is very popular among Shanghai's young people.

tion Sign (MS): Native shoe

Last year by designer DK, graffiti artist and the all-important product engineer Joy, MS is a very own footwear brand. Dubbed "Hide and Seek" the collection revolves around the team's desire for everyone is seeking their own hidden desires. "We're selling high quality sneakers at an affordable price. They're more fashionable than sporty." It's easier to picture the golden shoes on the feet of hipsters at parties rather than at a gym.

yle: Beijing street culture

Shan Lin Style brand established in 2004 sells t-shirts and caps. The inspiration comes from Beijing's street graffiti and underground culture. The brand is the best representation of street culture. It's welcomed by local DJs and some musical artists.

Li Qiuqiu, a professional cartoonist, said he will have their own brand. "Our work is the same as the others." At the very beginning, Li and his friends did graffiti in Beijing's hutong. Gradually, the brand became its symbol.

New concept in environmental protection

Shan Lin means literally "mountain and river" in Chinese. A former couple YY and L established the brand, when they studied at the China University of Art. Most of their products including belts, bags and furniture are made of environmentally friendly materials like canvas and fiber. The most popular Shan Lin product should be dubbed a "calculated" since it has different styles from January to December. YY and L hope to raise public awareness of environmental protection and persuade people to keep the planet green.

on group

A young Beijingers born in the 1980s published "Choice of Cultyouth" under the pseudonym, "If you were not born in the 80s and don't read the cartoon plots, then don't bother reading the books." They finished the cartoon in only a few days including creation, design and publishing. It was released on iMart, and has sold well on the Internet.

pendent studio

which means corbie in Chinese is the name of the studio debuting last year. With its own website at www.corbie.com, the studio mainly focuses on music broadcast, forums and audio magazines. The studio has put its effort into promoting independent music and music-related activities.



Multiplication Sign



Shan Lin



WEAKid



TYAKASHA: puts clips of photos into cult design.



Fashionable cloth brand—Flosa

China Young Designer Art Show

Where: Lower ground of Seasons Place Shopping Centre, Beijing Financial Street, Xicheng
Open: until December 31
Tel: 6622 0888

The Gates of Paradise

Lorenzo Ghiberti's Renaissance Masterpiece

By Charles Zhu

Saint John's Church in Florence, its most honored and sacred site, was decorated with a wealth of art works both inside and out. Dante called it "mio bel San Giovanni," my lovely Saint John. The most outstanding of all works in "the city of Baptist" were the colossal groups of statues over each of the three portals describing three events in the Baptist's life.

The Gates of Paradise: Lorenzo Ghiberti's Renaissance Masterpiece (by Gary Radke, 184 pp, Yale University Press, US \$45) displays in full glory and elaborate detail many of the newly restored bronze panels and the extraordinary work that went into restoring its priceless doors.

Lorenzo Ghiberti began work on the panels at age 23, and spent youth to middle age making the first set. When he completed the second set of the doors, he was in his seventies. His panels, which surveyed Old Testament tales, was such a success that the Calimala, financiers of the time, had his Ghiberti's Jesus panels moved to the east gate.

Unfortunately the gilding on the doors blurred over centuries, and the grime of the years muddled the images further. Human touch contributed to further erosion of the reliefs.

During World War II, the doors were dismantled and stored in a tunnel. After their return to the Baptistry, several panels were dislodged again by the flood of 1966. Over the years, meticulous

care has gone into precise restoration of the panels.

To express gratitude for American assistance in the restoration, three of the ten panels, Adam and Eve, Jacob and Esau and David, completed in 1452, have gone on a tour of the US set to climax at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on January 13 next year.

In Adam and Eve, Ghiberti described the creation of Adam, the creation Eve, the eating of the serpent's apple, and the expulsion from Eden. In Jacob and Esau, the artist masterfully delineated the visit by four women to Rebecca at the birth of Jacob and Esau.

Ghiberti showed enormous courage in his times in making these panels. He tried to combine vast spatial vistas, continuous yet unifying, in the same panel. German art critic Richard Krautheimer thought the panels were mainly exercises in Renaissance perspective. He believed that Ghiberti lost interest in individuals and tended to repetitious routine near the end of his labors.

Andrew Butterfield was able to rediscover the effect of placement on the doors, something previously neglected in research literature. He found that the top scenes are made in greater relief than those below, and contain fewer and larger figures. Butterfield argues that this keeps the panels at a continuous clarity regardless of distance.

The three panels sent to America come from the top, middle and bottom, with their gradations of



projection clearly evident.

Contributors to the exhibition catalog made extraordinary research efforts in the discovery of Ghiberti's new approaches and

singularly creative achievements in mercury-process gilding, the final chasing and the casting techniques during the Renaissance period.

Cracking up in your cubicle

Zhang Xiaohu Office Fantasy



By He Jianwei

Office life may not be a treat, but it is better than Zhang Xiaohu's world: endless hours of overtime, raises that never come and the endless crunch. For Zhang, there is no simple city life.

"It's not just a job. It's a lifestyle – in the office," a comic book depicting the life in the office was published at the end of November.

Zhang Xiaohu Office Fantasy (Zhang Xiaohu Office Yixiang Ji, by Comic Association of Hezi, 190 pp, 22 yuan, China CITIC Press) is a collection of comic stories about Zhang Xiaohu, a popular icon among China's rat race office workers.

The Comic Association of Hezi's characters all have box-like heads, a symbol of the troubles of office life. For many workers, life is just moving from one trap-like box to another. "Everyone lives in a box and works in a box, so we made Zhang's head a box," Lin Xiaoneng, one of the authors said.

"The office building is a box. The office is a box. The apartment is a box. The car, the subway, the elevator, the file, the desk, the chair and the book are all boxes. The world is built by sticking smaller boxes inside bigger ones," Lin said.

The book covers six series of stories: Office Secret, which happens in the office, People Fun, which happens

in the festivals, Box Life, which happens between shifts, Boys and Girls, which talks about love and relationships, Imitation Show, where the characters imitate iconic Chinese imagery, and Prison Break or Box Break, where the characters take on roles from the TV series Prison Break.

The stories can inspire both laughter and tears. "It is a handbook for how office workers can manage stress," he said.

The book focuses on four main characters: Zhang Xiaohu, Lili He, VC Gao and Huang Agou.

Zhang Xiaohu always fails to get a girlfriend and please his boss. All he is good at is working overtime.

Lili, young and vain, is Zhang's female colleague. She is an overly-practical woman who is ever-chasing the dream of marrying a rich man and having an easy life.

VC is their boss in the venture capital field. He is a caricature of the bosses of privately-owned companies. He exploits his employees and is a dishonest businessman; other times, he can be soft-hearted, and worries about the problems and pressures middle-aged men face.

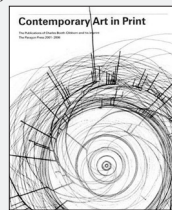
Huang is Zhang's male colleague. He always wants to buy the latest gadgets and treats his colleagues with biting sarcasm. He is realistic and selfish, but even he can have a conscience.

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three top-selling art books for Beijing Today's readers.

Contemporary Art in Print: The Publications of Charles Booth-Clibborn and His Imprint on the Paragon Press 2001-2006

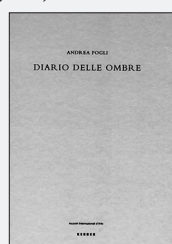
By Charles Booth-Clibborn, Etienne Lullin and Florian Simm, 336 pp, 750 yuan, Booth-Clibborn



The 28 projects by 18 artists presented in this volume provide an overview of the British art scene at the beginning of the 21st century. Each project is fully illustrated in color, indexed in chronological order and accompanied by texts, mainly based on interviews with the artists.

Andrea Fogli: Diary of Shadows

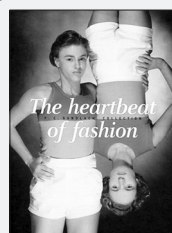
By Bruno Cora, Peter Weiermair, Evelyn Weiss and Andrea Fogli, 168 pp, 480 yuan, Kerber



Andrea Fogli's drawings are like poetic gifts for the eyes that give us something we can only experience on the surface of the paper. The 106 fantastical drawings collected here, made between 2000 and 2006, constitute an intimate diary of this Italian artist's conscious and unconscious "shadows."

The Heartbeat of Fashion

By Boris von Brauchitsch, Peter Brinkemper and Michael Diers, 312 pp, 715 yuan, Kerber



Fashion and fashion photography reflect the times that produce them: they are snapshots of an era and communicate the attitudes of a generation. The fashion photographer, like the fashion designer, has to anticipate trends, visualize ideas and do this via images men and women can identify with, whether consciously or unconsciously.

(By He Jianwei)

Traveling teddy teaches happiness

The Chinese Amelie

By He Jianwei

In the French film *Amelie*, a woman called Amelie sent a garden gnome on a trip around the world by passing it from person to person and photographing it at famous landmarks. The gnome's return helped her father to get past the death of his wife.

In China, a bear toy has made similar travels around the country's cities since this February. Hundreds of people have rediscovered happiness in the toy's travels.



Momo on the road

The film character Amelie ardently loves life, and her kindness has touched many of the film's viewers.

A college student from Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, was inspired to start her own toy tour after seeing the film. Li Daoqi, 21, a student from the Xi'an University of Finance and Economics, spent a day hunting out a bear to use as the subject of her tour.

Using her camera, Li photographed the bear by the city gate and began mailing the bear to other cities in February. "I hope every city can have an Amelie to pass happiness in bear form from one person to another," she said.

She named the bear "Momo," after the lomo camera she used to shoot the first picture. "I love lomo and hope people who receive the bear can also photograph it with a lomo camera," she said.

Not many people are familiar with lomo cameras. "lomo photos need to be printed, which is inconvenient for most people," she said.

Digital cameras and cell phone cameras are just as effective for capturing shots of Momo.

Since February, the bear has traveled to Beijing, Wuhan, Shanghai, Hohhot, Nanjing and Changzhou. "Currently, the bear is in France. A Chinese student took it there on her trip abroad," she said.

The bear stays in each city for two weeks. A notebook is included in the package with the bear. "Everyone can write down where he or she took Momo or keep a record about what the bear did each day," she said.

People who are interested in following the bear's travels can visit Li's QQ chat group or BBS on Xici.net.

Li also opened a blog to record Momo's tour. People who take the pictures can mail their photos to her and she will post them on BBS or blog.

Changing lives



Li Daoqi is the one who launched the toy tour.



The fifth stop: Hohhot



The fourth stop: Shanghai



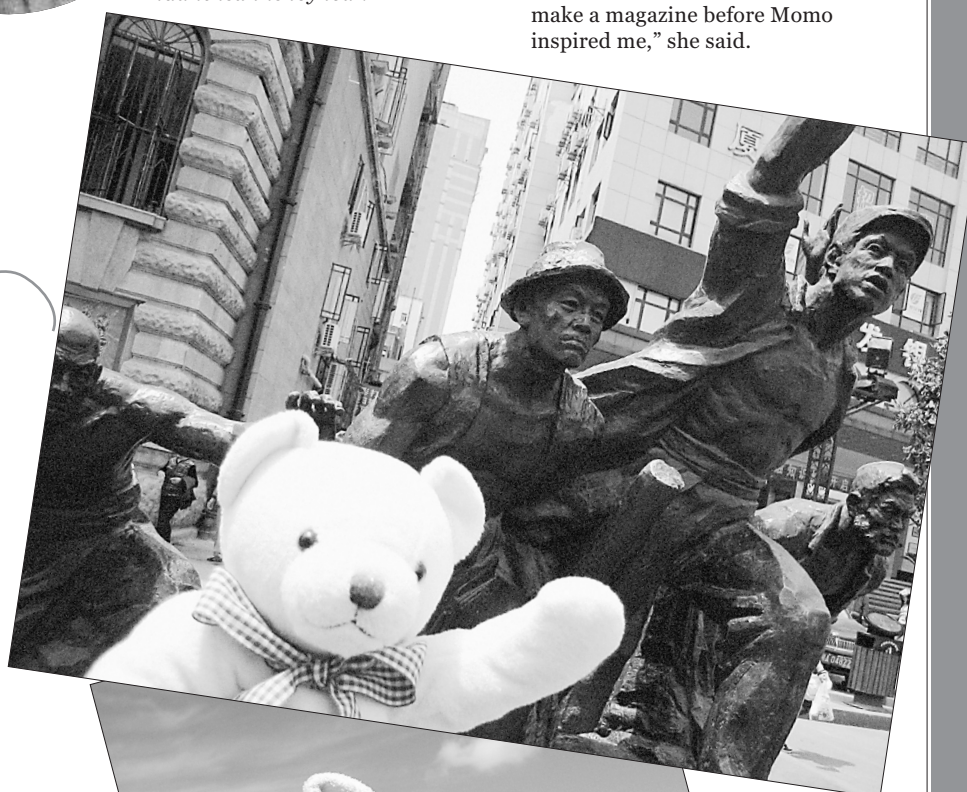
The first stop: Xi'an



The fifth stop: Hohhot



The second stop: Beijing



The third stop: Wuhan



The sixth stop: Baotou

Photos provided by Jin Chao

A gift for everyone

Li has not decided a specific route for Momo's tour. "People who are involved in the tour will decide on the next destination and who will take photos," Li said.

Each keeper mails the bear and notebook to the next keeper. "If Momo becomes dirty, the keeper must wash it before mailing it on," she said.

People involved in the tour are ages 18 to 25. Most are college students and some are office workers born after 1980.

Li hopes Momo can visit more cities and countries in the future. "If this Momo becomes old and ragged, we can always introduce a new bear. What the future has in store for it is more than I can imagine," she said.



The Pho



A taste of Asia's tropics for two

Shrimp-Wrapped Sugarcane



Shrimps Dishes



The Egg Salad

By Gan Tian

In Marguerite Duras's masterpiece, *The Lover*, she had mentioned little about Saigon's cuisine, but there is no doubt its tasty treats inspired her to explore the oriental country's romanticism. In these dull, gray days, the city could use a little of that romantic spirit, so here comes *Beijing Today's* Vietnamese cuisine special.

Try some of these local Vietnamese restaurants, best enjoyed with that special someone seated beside you.



The Salad

Different place, different taste

Vietnam has three main regional cuisines. North Vietnamese food is less rich and spicy than southern food. It may be spicy, but the spice comes from black pepper, not chilies. Food in the north looks more like Chinese food than other dishes in the country.

The hottest Vietnamese food is found in Central Vietnam. Chili peppers grow everywhere and turn up in everything. The cooks and chefs of the region like to be creative and always try new things with their dishes.

In Vietnam's southern region, chefs are preoccupied with vegetables, especially fresh ones. The cuisine of Vietnam's southern region is also more influenced by the French colonial era. No morning in Saigon is complete without the smell of a freshly-baked baguette. Southerners prefer several small dishes at mealtime instead of two or three large helpings.

East meets west in food fusion

Vietnamese cuisine subscribes to yin and yang theory – the balance of opposites.

As in China, you will find a balance of five flavors – sweetness, sourness, saltiness, spiciness and bitterness – in stir-fried dishes, hearty soups, rice and noodle dishes. However, Vietnamese dishes are laced with limes and lemongrass, light and pungent fish sauce or wrapped in delicate lettuce leaves with fresh, feathery herbs.

Neighboring Southeast Asian countries use the same ingredients, but can never match the unique union of technique and taste of Vietnam.

The French have left their own mark on Vietnamese dishes – or perhaps the Vietnamese have added their own finesse to French standards, particularly to European-style sauces, meats and pates. Vietnamese cold roast pork sandwiches are a Hanoi lunch staple, stuffed with fresh herbs and raw vegetables into Vietnamese-style baguettes: French rolls are made softer with a subtle mixture of rice and wheat flour. Vietnamese dishes also commonly combine indigenous flavorings with French-introduced ingredients like asparagus and potatoes.

Vietnamese cuisine

Banh Hoi Tom

Cooked rice noodles served with lobster.

Banh Trang

Rice-paper wrappers made from rice flour, water and salt. These are moistened in warm water then quickly filled before frying, or used uncooked as wrappers for slivers of meat or fish and fresh herbs. Usually dipping sauces are provided for the diners.

Ca-Kho

Raw fish.

Ca Ran Chua Ngot

A special main dish of quickly-fried whole fish, served with a delicate sweet and sour sauce and a dash of chilies and onions, nuoc mam, vinegar and sugar.

Cha Gio

The general name for wrapped tidbits of fish, seafood and vegetables, which are eaten after dipping in various sauces or deep-frying in their wrappers.

Hu-Tien

A broth with noodles often served as a hot, satisfying breakfast dish.

Mang Tay Nau Cua

Soup based on chicken stock with crab meat and asparagus and mushroom pieces. The soup is thickened with cornstarch and served garnished with slivers of scallions and crumbled egg yolk.

Micha Trong Kroeun

Strips of plaice fillets dusted with rice flour and briefly browned in fat, then lightly cooked in a spicy sauce of garlic, scallions, chilies and Nuoc Mam.

Mien Ga

Light, flavorful chicken broth, served with cellophane noodles and garnished with thin scallion slivers.

Mut

A sticky, sweet candy that can be prepared from fruits, vegetables or seeds cooked in syrup until translucent.

Nonhchon

The short-grain rice preferred by southern Vietnamese people.

Nems

Deep-fried, pastry-wrapped delicacies very similar to Chinese egg rolls and eaten after being dipped into Nuoc Man or Nuoc Cham.

Nuoc Cham

To the basic Nuoc Mam, the cook adds chilies, black pepper, cayenne pepper, scallions, onions and garlic to taste in order to produce a fiery hot sauce.

Nuoc Leo

A peanut dip made by mixing Nuoc Mam with chicken broth and Hoisin Sauce, then garnishing with slivers of chilies, garlic and crushed roasted peanuts.

Nuoc Mam

The single most important sauce in Vietnamese cuisine. It is prepared by layering fish and salt in barrels and allowing them to ferment. The first liquid that oozes off is considered the highest quality. The liquid that results after pressing the fermented mixture is stronger in color, flavor and odor and is considered to be lower quality. The sauce is as common as salt and pepper is to the Western table. No dish is complete without at least a little Nuoc Mam.

Pho

The only Vietnamese dish that is served in individual portions. All other dishes are served in dishes to be shared at the table. Lengthy cooking and careful seasoning produces the beef or chicken broth that is poured over cooked noodles. The shredded meat of your choice is arranged on top. Each diner adds fresh green herbs, garlic and chilies. Sauces are served in tiny side dishes for dipping meat slivers with chopsticks. A porcelain soup spoon may be used to aid the delivery of slippery noodles to the mouth.

Tamthom

The long grain white rice favored by the North Vietnamese.

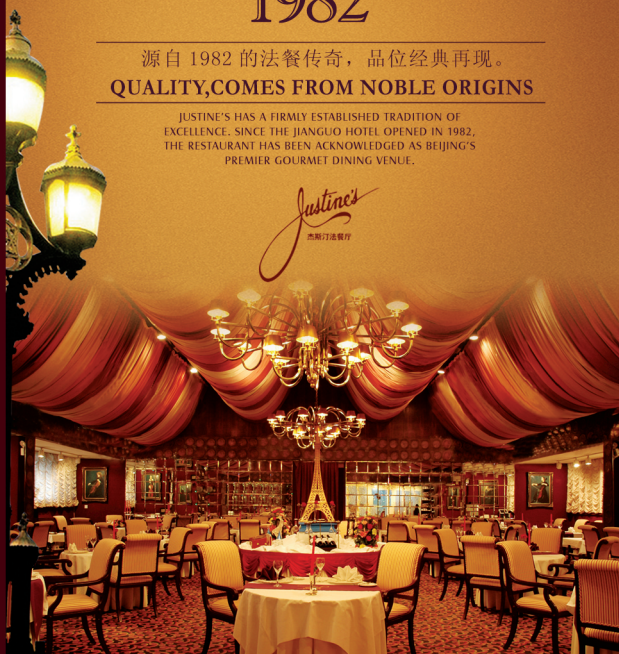
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Vietnamese Vegetable Spring Rolls

Pho's Flavorful Fusion

By Gan Tian

Pho at Beijing, located next the Drum Tower, serves up Vietnamese food with a Chinese flavor. Its namesake dish, "pho," is Vietnamese for rice noodle.

The restaurant's exterior offers a picturesque look into the classical Beijing downtown: pedicabs speed by and pedestrians trot down the noisy streets.

The restaurant only has eight tables, but finding an empty one could be a challenge. It is popular with many expats and foreign visitors eager to taste Pho's Vietnamese fare.

The Special Combination at 20 yuan is Pho's most frequently sold dish. It has pork, chicken and beef with a hint of lemon, some mint leaves, bean sprouts, fish broth and spicy paste.

To create the combination's special flavor, the order in which ingredients are added is very important. Bean sprouts are added to the broth first to form its base. Customers can then shred and add mint leaves to the soup. Lastly, squeeze in a hint of lemon. The fish broth can be added or used as a paste.

The restaurant opened last September. Besides offering reasonable prices, Pho also supplies toys and other diversions to kill time when waiting.

Pho at Beijing

Where: 200, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9:30 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6404 4578



An inside view

The Spicy Lemon-Grass Shrimp



Comment

Vietnamese cuisine is a little bit sweet and sour, but light. I recommend the Vietnamese Vegetable Spring Rolls for 18 yuan.

They are a little sweet, and based on the ingredients, I guess pretty healthy.

– **Sherry Lim, housewife and mother-to-be**

Coco milk with eggplant! Sounds ridiculous? This dish is white, and has some coco milk flavor, and the eggplants in it add a strange flavor – but great! Please remember this dish is only served in winter as they have only this special eggplant at this time of year! Do go there and taste it before Christmas – girls will love it! By the way, only 20 yuan.

– **Luo Chan, an editor who believes she could fly**

I ordered Ground Shrimp-Wrapped Sugarcane for 25 yuan. Wow, it is amazing. After biting into the fresh shrimp I bit into the sugar-

cane. It was dry at first, but then juicy and sweet.

– **James Hunt, a traveler from Heaven**

The Spicy Lemon-Grass Shrimp for 35 yuan is my favorite. Lemon seems to be in every dish here. I love the sour flavor.

– **Roman Brant, a hutong lover**

My girlfriend says Vietnamese cuisine is good for her figure, so we come here often. We love the Broiled Fish with Lemon Grass for 45 yuan and Special Roast Chicken for 48.

– **Bruce Luo, somewhere between boy and man**

I love salad, and have sampled many salads in many cuisines. The Strawberry and Shrimp Salad, 28 yuan, is creative, but needs to feature more shrimp flavor. I think the Papaya and Shrimp Salad at 32 yuan is much better.

– **Salad Sang, a salad lover**



The Special Combination



Pho at Beijing

Other places

to go

Pho88

Where: 15-1-30, Wanda Plaza, 93, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9:30

am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 5820 6860, 5820

8180

Average cost: 20 yuan per person

Yuenan Shenglong Fengqing

Where: 23, Kuntai International Center, 10, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 9:30 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 5879 7571

Average cost: 80 yuan per person

Muse

Where: West Gate of Chaoyang Park, 1, Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11:30 pm

Tel: 6586 3188

Average cost: 80 yuan per person

Nam Nam

Where: 7, Sanlitun Beilu, next to the Friendship Market Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11:30 pm

Tel: 6468 6053

Average cost: 80 yuan per person

Photos by Gan Tian

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The thrill of bargaining

By Gan Tian

Do you exclusively purchase Armani, LV, Fendi, Dolce and Gabbanna? If you do, I would hazard to say that you have lost your hunger for bargaining. As the Christmas season approaches, *Beijing Today* provides places to find fantastic little gifts. If you haven't yet settled on what to bring home for Christmas, try these places, and don't forget to haggle!



CFP Photos

Zoo clothing market: nothing to do with animals

The Beijing Zoo, located near Xizhimen, can provide endless entertainment for the animal lover, and it can also offer the cheapest clothes for the avid shopper.

The area around the zoo is the capital's biggest clothing market. It provides as many styles as you can imagine, and as cheap as you can imagine! Many articles are rubbish, but if you have a good eye, you can find some very good buys.

My friend found a Dolce and Gabbana T-shirt for only 40 yuan! However, if you are a first time

visitor, it will make your head spin! *Beijing Today* provides you with some tips which can save you time and energy.

First you must know which famous markets are there. Going from the Beijing Exhibition Center to the zoo (from east to west), you can see Dongding Clothing Market (Dongding Fuzhuang Shichang). It is just an ordinary place, except for the third floor, which sells good T-shirts.

In the south is the heart of the zoo's clothing market. There are three: Exhibition Road Clothing Market (Zhanlan Lu Pifa

Shichang), Tianle Market and Zhonghe Market.

Clothes in Tianle are pretty cheap. You can find vendors displaying 10 or 15 yuan jackets. Hip-hop fashion fans can find their favorites on the second floor.

Zhonghe Market is west of Tianle. Ignore the shoes on the second floor, but the Korean-style clothes are really good. Take the west passage where you will find a shop selling bags of good quality. I once found a sporty Jansport bag, not Nike or Adidas, good material, for 65 yuan. In Wudaokou Market, it would cost 180 yuan.

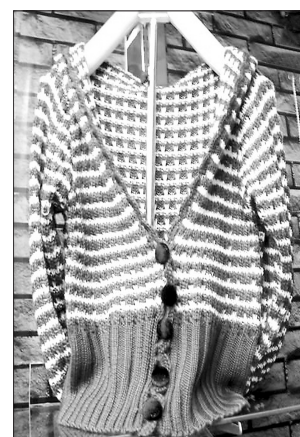
These four markets will certainly satisfy your big appetite for clothing. Remember to avoid weekends, and, keep in mind, they open and close really early so, if you get there late, you may miss out on some great bargains. Good luck!

Where: Beijing Zoo, Xizhimen, Xicheng District

Getting there: Take Loop Line subway and get off at Xizhimen Station, go out exit A. Then walk east for ten minutes, you will see Dongding Clothing Market

Open: 4 am - 4 pm

(By Gan Tian)



Maliandao Tea City in Xuanwu District



Maliandao tea street in Xuanwu District has everything a tea lover could dream of, ranging from tea, tea seats, tea desserts and books. And so, it is kind of shopping heaven if you prefer a fragrant and tasty gift.

This area might represent all the tea in the country, but with over a mile of shops hawking tea leaves and tea paraphernalia, it feels like it. And many people rate this friendly street as the highlight of their visit.

Maliandao can amaze first-time comers with its

boisterous teashops offering thousands of types of tea. But it makes for a perfect day trip for those looking for some culture and adventure.

The four-story Tea City, Cha Cheng, halfway down the street, is a pleasant spot to start, where you can find black tea, *hong cha*, and Pu'er tea, sold in round briquettes and improves with age. There is such a wide range of flavors, from flowery *gaoshan* to caffeine-laden *tieguanyin*, or milky *jinxuan* to the sweet after-taste of *renshen* (ginseng), which

most shoppers find a very attractive brew.

The booths on the first and second floors, somewhat tiny and crowded, offer tea-drinking experiences as pleasant as those larger ones on the third floor. The booth owners, mostly tea growers from Fujian and Zhejiang provinces, usually prepare at least one big exquisite tree-root-made tea table in their shops, besides which the shop owners entertain their guests and friends.

Ceramic and cloissone tea sets are the other big draw in

the tea city. It is smart to get yourself a set of fine pots and cups molded from Yixing clay to guarantee a satisfactory tea drinking experience.

Where: 11, Guang'anmen Wai Maliandao Road, Xuanwu District

Getting there: Take Line 1 subway and get off at Nanlishilu Station, leave through exit A. Then take bus No 46 and get off at the Carrefour supermarket.

Open: 8:30 am - 6 pm

Tel: 6340 9594

(By Jiang Xubo)

Qianmen Carpet Company in Chongwen District

Qianmen Carpet Company, a retailer with a wide collection of traditional antique carpets, is one of the best places to buy a colorful, soft, warm and distinctly Chinese gift in the capital, especially during chilly winters.

The carpets are mostly antiques, including Tibetan prayer rugs, Xinjiang yurt rugs and Mongolian saddle rugs, which could be as old as 300 years. They are all

handmade using natural dyes.

In addition, rugs from Gansu and Qinghai provinces and the Ningxia-Hui Autonomous Region, featuring dragons, phoenixes and auspicious symbols, also make great gifts.

Prices for the carpets and rugs vary from 400 to 40,000 yuan, with its shop specialty, Tibetan rugs, going for tens of thousands of yuan. Veteran dealers can take

a chance and bargain.

Old age has left some imperfections in the antique rugs but the shop offers charged services to clean and repair them. In addition, the professional staff members can give you advice on how to clean and maintain your carpets and rugs.

The factory also sells antique "reproductions" and Henan silk carpets, which makes its collection

more appealing and affordable.

Where: 59, Xingfu Dajie Street, First Floor, Building 3, Tian-tan Mansion, Chongwen District

Getting there: Take the subway and get off at the Chongwenmen Station, go out exit A. Then take Bus No 8 and get off at Xingfudajie stop.

Open: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

Tel: 6715 1687

(By Jiang Xubo)



Photo provided by Qianmen Carpet Company

How to balance your soul and body if you do Xmas alone

People get more emotional in winter as the days grow shorter and temperatures plummet. What's worse, the loneliness is amplified at the holiday atmosphere.

More and more urban dwellers turn to psychotherapists for suggestions to balance their souls and bodies. Su Hei, a Hong Kong woman psychotherapist, has gained popularity in the mainland market through her magazine columns and books.

The key words in her therapy are to turn to inner strength to find peace and love. Here are some of her suggestions:

1 Learn to store energy. Su Hei said when one feels depressed, he or she should adopt a low-key profile to store energy. There are some easy ways to store energy in winter, such as wearing warm enough clothing or drinking warm water.

2 Learn to control emotions instead of being controlled by them. Su Hei said growing up is the process of learning to calm down and getting peaceful.

3 For people who are desperate for love during this season, the doctor suggests learning the true meaning of love and avoiding painful moments.

4 Learn to love and pamper yourself like when you were a child. For example, pat your forehead like a mother cuddling her baby. Christmas and New Year shopping is encouraged.

5 Find something interesting to express your emotion, such as learning a new style of dance, writing a diary, drawing, exercising, singing or playing music.

6 Be grateful for what you have and be kind to others.

7 Believe in better things or that people are waiting for you. Always have positive wishes.

8 Do not compare yourself to others or hate yourself: everyone is individual and unique.

9 Say "hi" to yourself in the morning, and "good night" at bedtime. Learn to be your best friend.

10 Learn to enjoy the peace of being alone.

Throughout her book, Suhei emphasizes the importance of physical fitness and health. She points out that being physically strong is important so one has the energy or power for self-recovery and try to stand out from the crowd when spring comes.

References: McCraty, R., ed *Science of the Heart: Exploring the Role of the Heart in Human Performance*, Boulder Creek CA: Institute of HeartMath, 2001 (English)

No Fear in Aloneness by Su Hei, published by Anhui Education Publishing House, 25 yuan, (Chinese)



CFP Photo

Five easy moves to rebuild your body

Want to look hot at parties? You need to take action now!

Abs

The plant. In a raised push-up position, pull your belly button to your spine and hold for 30 seconds. It works that hard-to-tone part of your lower belly which makes your torso look slimmer

Posterior

The bum lift. Lie with your knees bent, feet flat on the floor, with a towel rolled between your knees. Squeeze your thighs and rear and lift your hips as high as you can; push a bit higher for 50 counts

Thighs

The leg lift. Stand with arms out at shoulder height. Lift your right leg out a few inches and turn your foot in; lift your leg up to the side as high as you can; lower. Do three sets of eight on each leg.

Shoulders and arms

The push-up/punch combo. Start by doing as many push-ups in a row as you can. Then stand up, grab a couple of soda cans and punch one arm out, then the other, for one minute.

Posture

The dumbbell row. Holding weights, feet hip-width apart, bend at your hips until your back is arched. Reach toward the floor; bring the weights to your armpits, bending elbows and lower. Do two sets of 20.

Five ways to find the right routine

Winter is the season in which most people gain weight. The most difficult thing is not whether you exercise or not, but how to maintain a continuous exercise routine.

Start slowly

Jumping into a boot-camp style exercise class or a long, arduous run if you haven't worked out in ages, guarantees you will hate it.

Choose a suitable workout

Looking great is about making your entire body look fit and balanced. If your posterior and hips are wider than your top half, work your shoulders and back a bit more to even out your body shape.

Love your body, learn to accept it and realize where and how you need to improve. Constantly complaining that your legs are too short or too fat does not transform them into a model's legs, but you can tone them through exercise.

Fit your workout to your schedule

Work out three days a week if you can carve out that block of time. Exercise for an hour, and include a cardio workout, strength routine, plus 10 minutes of warm-up and cool down sessions. You have to do it with intensity. No pedaling on the stationary bike at 0.1 miles per hour. This accomplishes nothing.

Work out almost every day if you have only a small window of time, or if you just prefer shorter workouts. You can go for shorter periods, just be sure to do it nearly everyday. Some celebrities only exercise 25 minutes but they see their gym coach five days a week.

Meet with a personal trainer

Tell the trainer you are only going to be doing a simple intro session. Get a plan from him or her and be sure to take lots of notes.

(By Annie Wei)



Adventure in polar night ...



Unfettered travels in Iceland are a real joy.

Iceland, Unlimited Adventure

The freedom to go as you please is a major attraction for many winter adventurers on holiday in Iceland. With such magnificent scenery, many places to explore and miles of empty roads, touring with your family in winter is hugely popular.

The Iceland experience can be as easy or wild as you like. On foot, you can choose from short and scenic walks on gentle trails to full-day wilderness hikes or longer backpacking expeditions.

You can also watch a whole showcase of geothermal curiosities: hissing steam vents, bubbling mud pools and erupting geysers.

Visiting the land of the Sagas is another attraction. Most Icelanders can trace their lineage back to a character in the Saga, and almost every spot on the map has a story to tell.

The capital's nightlife has almost cult status, and when it comes to having fun, Icelanders do it in style. Reykjavik has the attractions and amenities you would expect of a capital city of 110,000 inhabitants and a calendar of social events and festivals throughout the year.

Outside the city, there are farms, fishing villages and small towns with ample visitor facilities and a surprising range of attractions.

Accommodation:

If you are looking for the five-star luxury of an all inclusive resort hotel, look elsewhere - you will not find it in Iceland. Reykjavik has the best choice of accommodations, but throughout the island, all you will find are comfortable, unfussy hotels.

Expense:

It is fair to say that Iceland once had a reputation for high prices, but thankfully, this is largely a thing of the past. Visitor attractions and excursions are fairly priced, and public transport and fuel costs are comparatively low.

Weather:

The island is considerably less chilly than its namesake. Warmed by the Gulf Stream, Iceland has a temperate oceanic climate in spite of its sub-arctic location. Its winter temperatures are similar to those of Vienna or Milan.

If you have a special occasion on the horizon, like a birthday, anniversary or a surprise for that special someone, consider a memorable trip to the poles: the Arctic and Antarctica circles.

During polar day and polar night, when the sun never sets or when nights are longest, to feel the power of the cold and tread the glistening snows is an experience in itself.



Do not get too close, these bears have bite!

Northern Churchill, Kingdom of the polar bear

The polar bear is the largest land predator on Earth today, and seeing them in their natural habitat is a must for any Arctic excursion.

Weighing in at around 600 kilograms and standing up to 3 meters when on hind legs, the animal demands respect. Don't be fooled by the bear's cute appearance or try to give it a hug - it is a bear to beware.

Every year, the remote Canadian town of Churchill is transformed into the polar bear capital of the world.

During October and November, as many as 1,200 bears gather in Churchill on the icy tundra, waiting for the sea in the bay to freeze so they can wander out in search of seals. Excellent sightings are virtually guaranteed, and it's not unusual to see dozens of bears in a single day.



Alaska is one of the best sites for Aurora viewing.

Alaska, the Aurora Borealis

The Aurora Borealis, more commonly known as the Northern Lights, is one of the most spectacular phenomenon in the world. Now is the time to see it, since its peak season runs from December to March.

Fairbanks, the largest city in the interior region of Alaska, US, is considered the gateway to Alaska's best Aurora viewing site, with its special location in the midst of the "Aurora Belt."

Nothing can rival the experience of watching the Aurora. Awash in vibrant colors, these northern lights dance across the sky as if singing to the moon.

Why not just stay elsewhere and view the Aurora somewhere like Yellowknife, Canada? Because to fully experience the Northern Lights, you have to be away from the glow of population.

Aside from seeing the Aurora, you can visit Barrow, not far from Fairbanks. It affords ample time to explore the area's remote Eskimo Village on your own.

Accommodations:

Located halfway between Fairbanks and Prudhoe Bay, there are camps providing an excellent base for travelers in Alaska's Brooks Mountain Range. The camp is clean and each room features two twin beds and private bath facilities.

During the daytime, young males brawl, and mother bears explore with cubs in tow. A few solitary adults lumber across the tundra.

The great advantage of polar bear watching in Churchill is that it's a comfortable adventure. Under guidance of the local tourism agency, you may venture into the wilderness in the comfort and safety of a specially-designed tundra vehicle. After you've spent a day with the bears, you can return to civilization, enjoy a hearty home-cooked meal and rest in a hotel bed.

Weather permitting, a helicopter tour over Churchill offers a great aerial view of the city.

Accommodations:

Stay at the Churchill Motel, which serves home-cooked breakfast and offers warm beds after a day on the tundra.

(By Huang Daohen)

... continued from page 20



Can you sleep during the unyielding light of polar day?

... and polar day

Summertime in the Antarctic Circle runs November to February, its period of Polar Day. Almost all tourists bound for the South Pole rush in during this four-month opening.

Enderby Land and Perseverance Harbor

The island is a territory of New Zealand. The landing point for tourists is determined by the New Zealand government and local weather conditions.

Enderby Island is famous for the forests at its south end, which are dotted with lichens and ferns. The royal albatross, yellow-eyed penguin, red-crowned parakeet and hooker's sea lion – all on the edge of extinction – are found on Enderby.

Perseverance Harbor on Campbell Island is formed by a crater. Every summer, around 15,000 royal albatrosses nest there. If you have a chance to land on the island and walk to the top of the mountain, you can see the rarely-seen birds.

Scientific research stations

Since the 19th century, scientists

from different countries have been investigating the Antarctic Circle, especially Antarctica and surrounding islands.

No human settlements exist in Antarctica except for several research stations in regions administered by various countries. McMurdo Station is one of the biggest research stations in Antarctica, and the only station reachable by ship.

Adventure tents

Cape Evans at the west side of Ross Island was a dangerous environment for expeditions in the past. Adventure tents set up by various explorers remain scattered around. Some are currently used by scientists and their expeditions. The adventure tents mark the history of human exploration into the frigid south. Due to the cold, dry and windy climate in Antarctica, the tents are somewhat tattered and in need of renovation.

Volcanoes

There are two active volcanoes in Antarctica. They are located on Ross

Island and on Deception Island. It is possible to take a hot spring bath there, because the hot channels warm the icy seawater to tolerable temperatures. However the icy water only a short distance away can kill you in five minutes or less.

Preparation

A pair of Wellington boots and anti-nausea medicine are travel musts when visiting Antarctica. Because you may have to disembark on an island at any moment, if you aren't packing proper boots, your feet will have to endure icy water.

Nausea is another problem for tourists, since most of the southern journey is spent on ship. Carry medicine with you, and take it two to three hours before boarding your ship.

Don't expect to dress to impress on this vacation. Heat-preservation is the modus operandi for all Antarctic gear – just look at the penguins! Your overcoat and trousers must protect from both wind and water.



Penguins are Antarctica's only citizens.



Amazing ice columns



The French research station



A place to paint penguins



An ice-breaking ship

Group tour

Traveling in the Antarctic Circle is more difficult than in any other region in the world. The easiest way to get there is to go to a near country for a transfer flight. It can cost 100,000 yuan or more in transportation fees, but the trip is a once in a lifetime experience.

Arranging your own Antarctic tour is not possible. You will need to join a team or a touring company. Fees will

include transportation, food, ship fare and accommodations. Usually more than half your journey time will be spent in transit, with around three days actually in the Antarctic Circle. Experts in polar studies accompany tour groups and provide knowledge about the animals, plants and Antarctic geography.

Usually, your travel agency will help arrange a travel routine. Besides viewing local scenery and cute penguins,

adventure tents, islands, volcanoes and research stations may be included in your trip.

Transportation

Argentina and Chile have launched service for travel to Antarctica. Most people go to Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, first, for a one or two day tour there, then set off for Antarctica by ship.

By ship

The best way to get to Antarctica is by

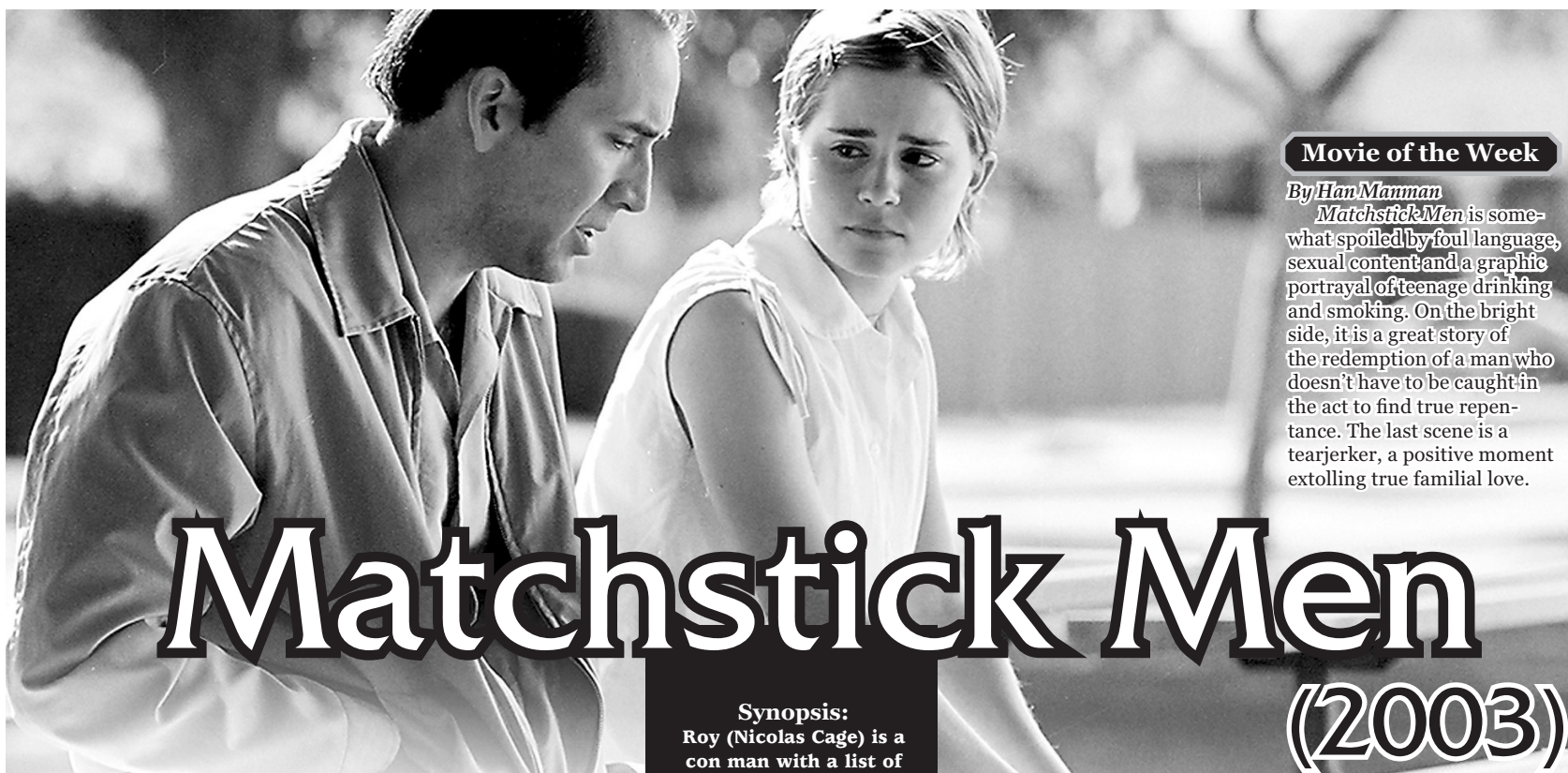
ship. You can see beautiful seascapes all along your way. The ships are, actually, moving hotels. Life aboard is rarely dull.

By plane

Fly to Canada or the US first, since there is no direct route from China to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Next, fly from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia City on the country's southern tip and set off from there by ship.

(By Zhang Nan)

Photos by Phbase.com



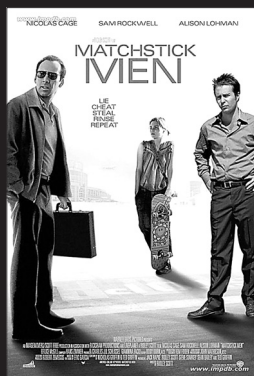
Movie of the Week

By Han Manman

Matchstick Men is somewhat spoiled by foul language, sexual content and a graphic portrayal of teenage drinking and smoking. On the bright side, it is a great story of the redemption of a man who doesn't have to be caught in the act to find true repentance. The last scene is a tearjerker, a positive moment extolling true familial love.

Synopsis:

Roy (Nicolas Cage) is a con man with a list of neuroses that could choke a horse. He is a clean freak with a fear of the outdoors but – ticks and all – still makes a lucrative living pulling scams with his partner and protégé Frank (Sam Rockwell). When Roy learns, with the help of a psychiatrist Frank recommended, that he has a daughter from a past marriage, he arranges to meet the girl, Angela (Alison Lohman). Like it or not, the con artist's life is about to change in Ridley Scott's *Matchstick Men*.



Scene 1:

(Roy, at the far end of a small couch, stares at a pair of Flor-sheims crossed atop an ottoman. They belong to Dr Klein, who scans Roy's form.)

Dr Klein: You're something of a clean slate⁽¹⁾, Roy. This says you were on medication, but you don't know what kind.

Roy: They were green capsules. I think it said P.D.F. on them. Something like that.

Dr Klein: You were getting them illegally? We're starting fresh today, Roy. What happened in the past I don't care about.

Roy: That's a funny thing for a shrink⁽²⁾ to say. Yes. I was getting them, illegally.

Dr Klein: Why?

Roy: So I wouldn't have to talk to someone like you. Do you know what they were?

Dr Klein: Yes. And at the dosage you say you were taking, I'd say you were lucky to be sitting up straight –

Roy: Can you get me more of them?

Dr Klein: Let's talk a little first. It says here you're –

Roy: I'm sorry, Doc, but my partner – my buddy Frank – he said I could come here and you'd get me the pills I need. If you can't do that, this session's over before it's started.

Dr Klein: You certainly get to the point.

Roy: And you skirt⁽³⁾ it. Can you get me the pills or not?

Dr Klein: Yes.

Roy: Then let's get that prescription pad out.

Dr Klein: Roy, usually I don't prescribe medicine unless I've had a little chat with the patient first. If you're inclined against that, then – as you say – this session will be quite brief. (Roy stares the doctor down. Klein never blinks)

Dr Klein: It says here you're an antiques dealer. How long you been in that line?

(Nothing from Roy. The face-off continues)

Dr Klein: Would you like to tell me what's been bothering you?

Roy: I get tired a lot, but I can't sleep. Certain things dis-

tract me, make me feel sick to my stomach.

Dr Klein: What kinds of things?

Roy: When people leave doors open, or windows. I don't like being outdoors. They call that agoraphobia⁽⁴⁾, right?

Dr Klein: Incorrectly, but yes. Anything else?

Roy: Dirt. Especially around moldings.

Dr Klein: Have these distractions affected your work of late? And your personal relationships?

Roy: What personal relationships?

Dr Klein: When was the last time you were in one? A relationship?

Roy: With a woman? A long time ago.

Dr Klein: Five years? Ten years?

Roy: Keep going.

Dr Klein: What was her name?

Roy: Heather.

Dr Klein: Were you married? (Roy's nod) Kids?

Roy: Maybe.

Dr Klein: Maybe. That's a new one.

Roy: She was pregnant when she left me. Maybe I got a kid, maybe I don't.

Dr Klein: You haven't seen her since?

Roy: No.



Dr Klein: You haven't spoken?

Roy: She left with a black eye⁽⁵⁾, which I gave her, and a bun in

the oven, which might have come from anyone. So, no, I haven't. For all I know she got hit by a bus. For all I know she got rid of the baby, 'cause she'd been down that path before. I spent last Tuesday on my living room sofa. Watching my carpet. Watching fibers on my carpet. And the whole time I was watching my carpet I was worrying that I might vomit, and the whole time I was worrying I might vomit, I was thinking: I'm a grown man, I should know what's going on in my head. And the more I thought about it the more I realized I should just blow my brains out and end it all, but the more I wanted to blow my brains out, the more I thought about what that would do to my goddamn carpet. And that was a good day, Doc. So gimme some pills and let me get on with my life.

Scene 2:

(Angela and Roy face off over another pizza at the kitchen.)

Angela: Bullshit.

Roy: Nope. No bullshit. And watch your language at the table.

Angela: You're a con⁽⁶⁾ man?

Roy: Con artist. Flim-flam⁽⁷⁾ man, matchstick man⁽⁸⁾, take your pick.

Angela: And that guy Frank?

Roy: My partner. My protégé⁽⁹⁾.

Angela: Bullshit.

Roy: I told you: watch your god damn language.

Angela: Teach me something.

Roy: What?

Angela: Teach me something. A con.

Roy: You're funny.

Angela: Teach me something.

Roy: I am not going to teach you anything.

Angela: Why not?

Roy: Because. You're a beautiful, bright, innocent girl, and I'm not going to screw that up⁽¹⁰⁾ like everything else.

Angela: Really, you think that?

Roy: What?

Angela: That I'm beautiful?

Roy: (deadpan) No.

Angela: Then why won't you?! (mockingly) Because crime doesn't pay?

Roy: No. It does pay. Just not very well.

Angela: You seem to be doing okay by it.

Roy: I'm not. Believe me. It's not fun doing what I do. A lot of the time it's stealing from people who don't deserve it. Old people. Fat people. A lot of the time I feel sick about it.

Vocabulary

- 1. Clean slate:** an unsullied record; a record marked by creditable conduct.
- 2. Shrink (slang):** a psychiatrist.
- 3. Skirt:** to evade, as by circumlocution.
- 4. Agoraphobia:** an abnormal fear of being in crowds,

public places, or open areas, sometimes accompanied by anxiety attacks.

5. Black eye: a mark of shame, dishonor

6. Con: a swindle

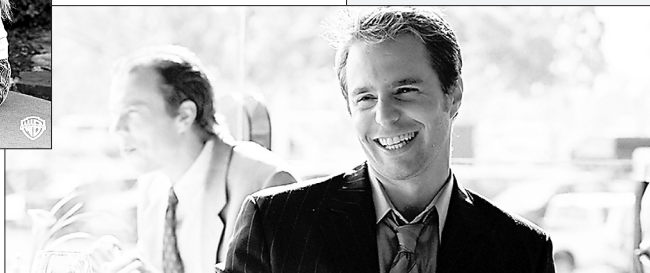
7. Flim-flam: deceive somebody.

8. Matchstick man: another term for a scam artist.

9. Protege: a person under the patronage, protection, or care of someone interested in his or her career or welfare.

10. Screw up (slang): to ruin through bungling or stupidity

11. Stuff (slang): a drug, especially one that is illegal or addictive



Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Matchstick men

By Han Manman

In any office setting with lots of girls, "lose weight" is always a hot topic: our office is no exception.

After a nice lunch yesterday, we once again delved into this unending women's issue. As winter is the most perilous season to plump up, most girls choose to go to the gym. Mei is one gym fan in the office. "I lost five pounds in a week," she announced. "Five pounds in a week!" "That's cool!" "How can you do that?" We all envied her. Losing five pounds in a week is not an easy task in winter.

Mei seemed very proud. She said the secret is to "go to the gym for at least two hours a day and never ever eat anything after exercising." "I plan to lose 20 pounds!" Mei said.

Although Mei is not thin, she is not fat. "Twenty pounds is too much. You will become a matchstick man."

It's not that beautiful! Men prefer voluptuous girls, not too skinny."

"No, matchstick man is my goal! I would love to be a matchstick man!" Mei said loudly.

Mei's announcement brought an outburst of laughter from the corner. That was our foreign copy-editor Joe. Obviously, he overheard our discussion. "Do you girls know what 'matchstick man' means?" asked us.

"Of course! It means a girl who is so thin she resembles a matchstick. Did we say anything wrong?" Mei asked Joe.

He did not answer but recommended the film, *Matchstick Men*. "Girls, after you've seen this film, you will know what's wrong," Joe said. Rather than giving us a direct answer, he invited us to find out for ourselves, his way of teaching us new things.

So, yesterday evening, we downloaded the film and watched it together. It was really good. Nicholas Cage plays Roy, an obsessive-compulsive, neat freak con man who attempts to pull off his biggest sting ever. All seems great until the sudden appearance of his daughter.

The film attempts to shed light on the lives of con men, living just under the veneer of society, nasty people who fool unsuspecting elderly people and scam them with promises of wealth using slick con tricks.

After watching the film, we finally understand what "matchstick man" meant. It is American slang for a scam artist and refers to one who has a very slick tongue with a persuasive and believable sales pitch and can sell you almost anything, even making you believe that a matchstick is more than a simple matchstick.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. He has been awareness of environmental protection.

"To be aware of" is a set phrase meaning "having knowledge of." The right way to say this is, "He has been well aware of environmental protection." Of course, you may just as well say, "There is a keen awareness of environmental protection amongst the community residents."

2. Whether the picture is genuine or not draw concerns.

The "whether" clause here is a noun clause serving as the singular subject. So, it should be, "Whether the picture is genuine or not draws concerns."

3. The target age is range 25 to 50.

The word order is wrong. It should be either, "The target range of age is 25 to 50," or "The target age ranges from 25 to 50."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. He has been awareness of environmental protection

The subject here may be aware of the environment, but the writer of this sentence is certainly unaware of correct grammatical structure. "To be aware" is a set phrase meaning, to have knowledge of." A simple fix ... drop the "ness" off the end of the word, "aware" and you have successfully corrected this sentence to read, "He has been aware of environmental protection."

2. Whether the picture is genuine or not draw concerns.

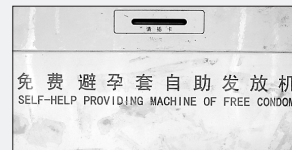
The words, "Whether the picture is genuine or not," creates a noun clause in the singular form and, in this sentence, is the subject. Thus, it must read, "Whether the picture is genuine or not draws concerns." Get the picture? Good!

3. The target age is range 25 to 50.

And the writer of this sentence would be about two years of age! Here you have your mords wixed up. Sorry, words mixed up. Here are a couple of quick fixes. "The target range of age is 25 to 50," or "The target age ranges from 25 to 50." Perfect! You've hit the bull's eye!



This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



The capital's complementary condoms

By Derrick Sobodash

AIDS has been on the rise this year, with thousands of new cases reported by the health authorities. It's no shocker the health department would respond in kind to stop its spread.

Possibly to that end, this condom machine was erected in Chongwen District. It reads, "Self-help providing machine of free condom" – only which is 50 percent mis-translated.

Self-help is somewhat misleading in this context. As defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, self-help is when one helps oneself without assistance, usually, psychologically. The *zi* here is part of the word *zidong*, which means automatic.

The machine isn't providing self-help, it is dispensing condoms, so it should be a "dispenser," not a "providing machine."

If we follow the order of the Chinese, condoms should have a more dominant role in this sign. Since the purpose of this dispenser is to kick out condoms, call it a "condom dispenser." Tack automatic onto the front and this sign is good to go.

What is funny about this machine is less its text and more its state of disrepair. The machine is beaten, dented and coated in leftover sticky goo from tape and who knows what else.

Why anyone would attempt to break into a free condom machine, let alone any, merits questioning. It could be that it is a machine for sex workers, and they have a card necessary to make it dispense free condoms. Of course, why such a sign needs English is the next logical question.

A *Beijing Today* reporter hypothesized that the slot above the message is where users place a condom card, possibly distributed by a nearby adult novelty store. A card seems contrary to the concept of complementary condoms.

The theory also falls flat as the only store near the machine is a pet store, and that is a brand of puppy love this writer does not want to explore.

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Exhibition Global Warming – Group Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Artists



The exhibition calls for society to be more aware of and take more preventative measures towards global warming.

Where: Art Scene Beijing, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until December 31
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6431 6962

The Thirties – Exhibition Nominated by He Duoling and Liu Hong

Where: Zero Field Art Center, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6 pm, until December 29
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8456 5808

Grimace Parade – Andrea Bender Solo Exhibition

Andrea Bender's paintings deeply penetrate the psycho-

logical portrayal of human beings and those layers far beyond psychology. She shows the essential necessity of her work and also demonstrates her superior mastery.

Where: China Art Seasons, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6:30 pm, until January 6
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6431 1900

Music

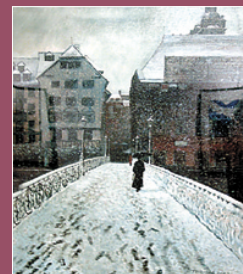
Jazz Concert

– New Glucose Jazz Septet

Where: South Gate Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 6:30 pm
 Admission: 80 yuan
 Tel: 6438 2797, 6437 9737

Exhibition

A Piece of Christmas



Where: Creation Space, 22-23 Guanyintang Art Avenue, Wangsiying, Chaoyang
 When: Daily 10 am – 7 pm, until December 25
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6737 0977

Fall in Love with Motherland – Contemporary Art Group Exhibition

Where: The First Sound Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until January 15
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6431 2501

Beijing: Theatre of the People – Ambroise Ténazas Solo Exhibition

From dusk to dawn, Ambroise Ténazas tells us about the silent mystery of the siheyuan, the grey walls of the hutong, where the journey of the seasons passes by.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until January 19
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8459 9263

Outdoor

Walk: Forbidden City & Tiananmen Square

The 3.5 hours guided tour will provide informative and real explanations of the Forbidden City, not only covering the history, architecture, rituals and life in the Forbidden City, but also the planning of the imperial-walled capital (gates, walls, etc.) and present day development.

Where: wait on the ground floor of KFC (Qianmen Xi Dajie) for the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) guide with a flag
 When: 9 am – noon
 Cost: 150 yuan
 Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (Registration at CCC is essential)

Sunday, December 16

Exhibition Tang Zhigang Retrospective Exhibition



Where: DoART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Changyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until January 20

Doors – One Step further to the Edge



Where: Platform China, 319-1 East End Art Zone A, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until January 1

Admission: Free
 Tel: 6432 0091

Start from Hubbub and Silence – Wang Nian-dong Solo Exhibition

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 5:30 pm, until January 7
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6432 6755

Service

Fly with KLM – One Step to Europe

Two weekly flights in winter fly directly from Chengdu to the Netherlands with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. KLM offers you a special round trip fare from Chengdu to Europe from 3,180 yuan and up.

When: valid for booking until December 21 and travel from December 2007 until January 2008

Tel: 4008 808 222, 028 8671 6960 (For Group Bookings)

New Rendez-vous Bar & Lounge

Rendez-vous Bar & Lounge, one of the city's best meeting places, gets a new look. It is the ideal place to meet your business partners or have a drink after a long working day.

Where: Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 Open: 8 am – 1 am the

next day
 Tel: 6465 3388 ext 4145



Stage in December

Dance

Ballet Jewels by Kirov

Who: Kirov
 Where: National Grand Theater Opera theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Swan Lake by Russia

Ballet Troupe

Who: Russia Ballet Troupe
 Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, January 31 – February 1

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Drama

Musical Cats

Who: The Really Useful Group's International Touring of Andrew Lloyd Webber's production

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

January 19-27

Admission: 80-1,680 yuan

Concert

Soprano Te Kanawa

Solo Concert

Who: Te Kanawa
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 2

Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Lang Lang Piano

Solo Concert

Who: Lang Lang
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

Berlin Philharmonic

Brass Quintet

Who: Berlin Philharmonic Brass Quintet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 7-8

Admission: 50-580 yuan

World Famous

Tenor Jose Carreras

Solo Concert

Who: Jose Carreras
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 380-1,880 yuan

China Philharmonic

Orchestra 2007-2008

Musical Festival

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Vitas 2008 Beijing Concert

Who: Vitas

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 5 Baishiqiao, Xizhimen, Haidian

When: January 24

Admission: 280-1,880 yuan

(By Li Jing)